



THE IRONMAN—A DOUBLE ENDER’S NEWSLETTER

Membership Scorebox

| | |
|---------------------------|-------|
| Active | 143 |
| Lifetime | 45 |
| Snail Mail Addresses Only | 238 |
| Email Address | 503 |
| Total Shipmates | 4,250 |

The 2025 USS Reeves Ironman Reunion is ON

In the Fall '24 Newsletter we spoke about our progress towards a location for the 2025 Reeves “Ironman” Reunion. We circulated our Request for Proposal (RFP) to hotels in the Pensacola area to see who had what available. We got only a few bites before we were able to find an excellent hotel that was willing to meet all our needs, and most importantly, keep the room costs reasonable. Several site visits were made by our Pensacola based Team, Shipmate Todd Larson and his wife Jane, to tour the property and ensure that it was an acceptable choice. Todd and Jane were both pleased with the hotel, the condition of the rooms, accommodation, and the hotel management staff. So, the decision has been made to proceed, and we can now confirm that the USS Reeves Association has everything all set for the 2025 reunion.

ternational Airport (PNS) and offers free shuttle services to/from the airport. It’s about ten miles to the Pensacola Naval Air Station, and an hour away from the USS Alabama Museum in Mobile Alabama. We think the location gives us plenty of choices for travel and tourism. There are a variety of restaurants located nearby.

Dues Notice!

Please be sure to check your mailing label or email notation.

To reach the greatest number of shipmates, we will publish the complete Association newsletter to any valid email or snail mail address. Your dues payments make this possible.



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The 2025 Reunion will be held in Pensacola Florida on Monday, October 13th through Friday, October 17th, 2025.

We have signed a contract with the Holiday Inn Pensacola University Hotel, which is located at 7813 North Davis Hwy, located at Exit #13 off I-10 with quick access to downtown Pensacola. The hotel is near the Pensacola Regional Airport (PNS), Pensacola Beach, Pensacola Naval Air Station, and The Naval Air Museum.

The hotel, which is newly renovated, is only four miles from Pensacola In-

The hotel includes all of the amenities that we have come to expect, such as complimentary breakfast, complimentary Wi-Fi, free airport shuttle service, a complimentary hospitality room, and a nice banquet room for our Association Banquet. The hotel has both a restaurant and bar, so there’s no need to

The President’s Page



Greetings to the entire USS Reeves Family

It’s finally 2025, and as we enter into this New Year we have high hopes and great expectations, particularly concerning the immediate future of the USS Reeves Association. Turns out the association is alive and well, and looking forward to our next reunion. As you may have noticed by the lead article, The 2025 USS Reeves Reunion is ON. Those words are music to my ears, because it means the major hurdle in the reunion planning process is completed. That leaves us many things to do, but it also gives me something to write about.

I started thinking about our reunion history and all the cool places we’ve been to since 2006. Yes, believe it or not, we have had 10 successful reunions since 2006, and we’re primed for number 11 to be one of our very best. As good fortune would have it, I’ve been able to attend all of the reunions, so I figured it was a good time to think about a few of my recollections of the Reeves Reunions past.

The 1st reunion was held in Longmont, CO in 2006. I wasn’t involved in any of the planning back then and had the pleasure of just showing up and enjoying the company of some

shipmates that I hadn’t seen since I walked off the Reeves. My highlight of the reunion was a road trip to Boulder, where we watched Gulf War protestors parading around. The 2nd reunion was in Washington, DC in 2008. It was a relatively small crowd in attendance. We discussed the organizational problems that the association faced and decided to formulate a plan to fix them. The Association we have now was born that morning. My highlights of the trip were wandering around DC and a trip to the Washington Navy Yard.

The 3rd reunion was in San Diego, CA in 2009. We had a great crowd and got to do some cool stuff. My highlights were an evening dinner cruise on the MV High Spirits around the San Diego harbor. The next day, we got an excellent tour of a brand-new Arleigh Burke-class Destroyer, the USS Preble (DDG-88), during our visit to Naval Station San Diego. The 4th reunion was in Chicago, IL in 2010. My highlights were a trip to Great Lakes RTC to watch a recruit graduation. We also went to the Sears Tower and a walking tour of the Lake Michigan waterfront.

The 5th reunion was in Charleston, SC in 2012. This was a fun reunion with plenty to do. My highlights were a Tour of the CSS Hunley Museum (yep, the recovered Civil War Submarine), and then a day at Patriots Point where we got a great tour of the

USS Yorktown (CV-10). We also got to wander around Savannah. The 6th reunion was in Portland, OR in 2014. This one started off with a River Boat Cruise on the Columbia River from Portland to Astoria. We got to check out a lot of the city, stumbled onto a Navy Memorial Dedication in a city park, and then went to Voo Doo Donuts to check out the hype. A day later a group of us decided to climb Multnomah Falls.

The 7th reunion was in San Antonio, TX in 2016. This was the best attended reunion since San Diego. Our hotel was right on the River Walk, and that allowed us to catch river boats right next to the hotel to wander freely around San Antonio, and to visit sights like The Alamo. Our group tour was a bus trip to Fredericksburg, TX to check out the Chester Nimitz Museum. That was one great museum.

The 8th reunion was in Providence, RI in 2018. This was a well-attended reunion with a lot of first-time attendees, including a large gaggle of snipes. A group of us took a road trip to Battleship Cove in nearby Fall River, MA where we got to completely check out the USS Massachusetts (BB-59) and a bunch of other warships. The next day we all headed by bus to Mystic Seaport in Mystic, CT. This was a fantastic living museum of Americas oldest Seaport and ended

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This newsletter is published by:
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All comments, suggestions, submissions and criticism are welcome. My email is always open..

Life Memberships

At the 2014 reunion in Portland, shipmates voted for a Life Membership.

After researching various Associations, it was decided that the US Navy Cruiser Sailor Association’s plan was best for the USS Reeves Association. Monies for life membership are placed in an interest-bearing account and not mixed with operating funds.

The schedule is simple:

| <u>Age</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|-------------|---------------|
| Under 50 | \$500 |
| Under 60 | \$400 |
| Under 70 | \$300 |
| Under 80 | \$200 |
| 80 or older | \$100 |

We already have 45 life members.

Emails, Etc.

Conrad Plyler

From:grayman@wavecable.com

To:'Tom Bailey'

Mon, Nov 11, 2024 at 9:21 PM

Thanks, Tom. Reeves holds a special place in my memory. She was my introduction to Officer Naval Service as a Midshipman. Later on, when I was commanding USS Nevada (SSBN733) (Blue), we met USS Reeves inbound Pearl Harbor while we were outbound to patrol. There was a great scramble to figure out who was senior, and it turned out that Bill Center, my classmate in USNA 68 was their CO. Even though he eventually made O-7, I was then senior. We rendered honors as is usual, but I was touched that my old cruise ship in Vietnam should pass us in the fullness of time. She looked great!

Conrad Plyler
CAPT, USN (Ret.)

Tom Berry

From:chevy1949to1954@gmail.com

To:Tom Bailey

Mon, Nov 11, 2024 at 7:02 PM

Tom:
Greetings!
Tom B. here in San Diego!

Just read the Fall Newsletter and wanted to throw out a couple of comments (you are probably already aware of). Monday 13 October is the Navy's 250th Birthday and the same day is Columbus Day. The wife and I used to live in P'Cola. I was the OS Exam Writer there 1991-1994. I accomplished two major life changes in P'Cola as well: Got the BIG "D" on my first Shore Duty in 17 years and got remarried to the best wife

that I still have 30+ years later.

Now that I am finally FULLY retired looking forward to making it to my FIRST reunion. Missed the one in Ohio due to work (crap it was even in my hometown). Look forward to meeting everyone as well.

I served on 11 ships and "War Whore 24" was the BEST of them all.

ATB,
Sincerely,
Tom "Spiderman" Berry
OSCS(SW), RET.
U.S.N. 1974-2001
U.S.N. Civilian 2002-2021
JICO ID #11002D

Gene Uricoli

From:geneuricoli@gmail.com

To: Bob Van Der Kamp

Bob,
I believe we met at RADM Ming Chang's Burial. I was with Larry Simmons. CAPT USN RET.

Tom - thanks for sending me the Newsletter. Most appreciated.

Gents :
I have a question and a request. My name is Gene Uricoli. I am a retired CAPT USN. My last afloat assignment was as COMDESRON 24 in Mayport, FLA.

During 1977 REEVES was deployed to WESTPAC and visited Japan. I was the Operations Officer back then as a LT.

A large group of the Crew - both Enlisted and Officer - "climbed" Mount Fuji. I still have the stick!

I know many of us posed for a picture at sunrise on the Summit.

However it was during the pre - iPhone era and I have no pictures to brag upon.

I seek a copy of those pictures - particularly one that might include ME. My grandkids would love it.

BTW

Some of the gents with whom I climbed were Gunner Holden. FCO. LT Vern Wing. CICO. The XO then CDR Steve Clarey. LT Charles Souder. MPA . LTJG Kunz. And several other members of the REEVES Crew.

I looked at the 1977 Cruise Book. No Joy. In fact I could not find a pic of myself anywhere in the Cruise Book so I attach a pic of me in chocker whites holding Port and STBD Running Light Cocktails as a memory jogger.

What is the most efficient manner in which I can broadcast my request to the REEVES NATION ? Thanks in advance for any assistance.

Gene Uricoli



The 2025 USS Reeves Ironman Reunion is ON (cont)

(Continued from page 1)

leave for a drink or a snack. It also means that they have the ability to put on a nice banquet dinner.

We were also able to have the hotel to allow us to bring our choice of beverages and snacks into the hospitality room, with them helping us out with ice as needed. Bringing our adult beverages into the room may not sound like a big deal, but with many hotels it's not allowed as they would prefer that we spend our money at their bars. We have received a copy of the banquet menu, and so far, it looks like there are some pretty nice choices for us. We have not settled on any menu items to date, as there is plenty of time to sort that out. We are confident that we can work with the menu to offer you the best choices while staying within our budget. The goal is to get the best offering that we can while keeping our costs to a minimum. At first look, it appears that we can stay in-line with what we spent in Colorado Springs and Dayton.

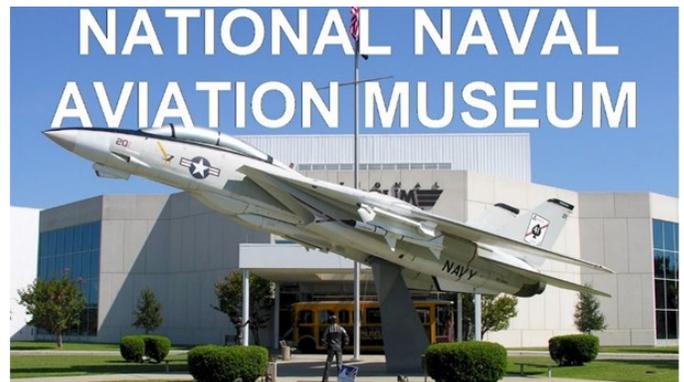
We were able to negotiate the hotel room rate to \$125.00 per night. We were very concerned with the room costs per night going into this and honestly expected them to be higher. Everyone is aware of the cost increases we have seen for just about everything in the last few years, so we really hoped that we could find a room rate that didn't scare everyone away. It appears that we have found something that most of us can live with. That leaves the cost of attending this reunion just a few dollars more than Dayton in 2023. The hotel has also agreed to honor our discount rate for three days before and after the reunion.

So, while it looks like the room rates and our association participation rates will stay roughly in line with the last three reunions, there is the whole Pensacola being in Florida thing to consider. That's either a longer drive or flight than most of us are used to, but keep in mind that the sooner you start shopping for flights, the better chance you have to find deals. There is also the possibility for a shift in the economy that may see some changes in fuel costs. We're hoping that there will be a downward trend, but who knows. Take a look now so you'll understand the basis for air fare prices and maybe spot a deal when it pops up.

So, for any of you that may have looked ahead to a 2025 Calendar and noticed that all the dates we just mentioned were, in fact, all weekdays. Well, you are entirely correct. What we're proposing to do is

change the daily routine for this reunion to accommodate all the cool things we want to do in Pensacola, which, by the way, happen on weekdays.

From a schedule perspective, there's the Blue Angel practice schedule, which only happens on Tuesday and Wednesday, then there's access to the Naval Aviation Museum, which is easier and less crowded on weekdays, and then there's a planned bus trip to Mobile, AL. to see the USS Alabama Museum, which is also easier and cheaper to sneak up on during the week. The cost perspective is very simple.... hotel rooms, attractions, and transportation are cheaper during the week.



A proposed weekday schedule looks like this. Monday is check in and set-up to get the party started. Tuesday looks like a great day to head to Mobile AL. to check out the USS Alabama (BB-60) Battleship Memorial Park. In addition to the Alabama (<https://www.ussalabama.com/explore/uss-alabama-battleship/>), there is the USS Drum (SS-228), and a surprising number of aircraft, tanks, and artillery on display. Wednesday takes us to the Pensacola Naval

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The 2025 USS Reeves Ironman Reunion is ON (cont)

(Continued from page 4)

Air Station to see the Blue Angels Practice their show routine. Afterwards, we will visit the National Naval Aviation Museum and take in lunch at the Old Cubi Point Officers Club, which was fully relocated to Pensacola, for our dining pleasure. Thursday is an open day to visit the Pensacola area, while we have our business meeting in the late afternoon and our banquet in the evening. Friday is load up and check-out day.

Of course, each of our evenings will see the hospitality room fully open for hanging out with shipmates, enjoying adult beverages, consuming snacks, and recounting fabulous sea stories. We normally have our welcome reception on Tuesday evening to welcome everyone aboard, then we also hang out after the banquet on Thursday evening to raffle off all our door prizes and wish everyone well until we meet again. The hospitality room is not a mandatory appearance. The evenings are your time to do what you like, but it is a nice place to enjoy some time with shipmates.

This whole weekday reunion thing is nothing new for us. As some of you may remember we did the weekday thing several times in the past. The San Diego Reunion in 2009 was a Monday through Friday thing, and then we repeated it again in Portland in 2014. Both times it proved to be much easier to get to attractions and generally held down our hotel costs in places where weekend days demand a premium price.

Reservations: The hotel has provided us with a special link to make our reservations, and also provided the direct dial number in case you don't like to make on-line reservations. That number is (850) 472-1400. Just let them know you're with the Reeves Group. As usual, Shipmates and guests will make their own room reservations, billings, and cancellations directly with the hotel. Your card information is only to hold the room, and it will not be billed until the hotel stay is completed. Individual room cancellations are allowed up to 24 hours before check-in with no monetary penalty.

That link is:

<https://www.holidavinn.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=PNSND&PMID=99801505&GPC=REE&cn=no&viewfullsite=true>

Once there, select VIEW PRICES, then enter dates (10/13/25 to 10/17/25), Select GROUP RATES, tab down to find and select Group Code REE and hit Search. This will populate the screen with choices for King Standard or Double Queen Rooms for \$125 per night. Make your selection and head to the reservation screen to enter your information. It boils down to \$500 for four nights with \$62.50 for taxes. Please keep in mind that when you first get to the site, you will see room rates of \$113 per night. That is for now, and not for October. The October rates for our dates are \$136 per night, and that's the senior discount rate.

We strongly suggest that you DO NOT book our rooms with any of the third-party booking discount web sites (like Booking.com or Trivago or Expedia or Priceline, etc), as we have found that they may save you a few dollars, but you have no amenities or standard protections that are guaranteed by dealing directly with the hotel. We hear about this at every reunion and advise against it. As usual, if there are any problems with any component of the hotel reservation process, please contact us directly and we will deal with the hotel to correct any problems. As of this writing there is 8 ½" of snow on the ground in Pensacola, but we do not anticipate that for next October.

That's all the news I have for the reunion for now. We'll be putting out plenty more information and sign-up sheets as we get closer. While all this may appear simple and straightforward for the time being, there may still be a few complications to iron out, but they are all easier now that we have a confirmed location and dates to work with. Now we can concentrate on examining the menu and making some choices that make everyone happy without breaking the bank. Then we can start the search to find a great speaker for the Thursday evening banquet. Then there's time to obtain event insurance, track down transportation to reunion events, make reservations for our field trips, order reunion and DLG / CG ballcaps, order more golf shirts, obtain Reeves Reunion bling, door prizes, pizza, and a ton of other stuff that goes into the reunion before anyone heads to Florida. But this is all the stuff that happens every time we plot a course for you to attend the next "best Reeves Reunion" you've ever been to. We sure hope to see you all there.

Financials

The President's Page (cont)

Income

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Current Checking | \$4846.44 |
| Current Savings | \$8716.61 |

(Continued from page 2)

up being a great day to immerse ourselves in Americas maritime history.

The 9th reunion was in Colorado Springs, CO in 2021. Yes, we skipped a year as the COVID-19 mess essentially cancelled any chance of a reunion in 2020. It simply wasn't meant to be. The reunion in COS was a near-western alternative and offered plenty of things to do and sights to see. Our group tour took us to the Royal Gorge Bridge in nearby Canon City, where we got to check out a bridge that spans the 1000' deep gorge over the Arkansas River.

The 10th reunion was in Dayton, OH in 2023. This was a visit to the lower SW corner of Ohio to check out the middle of America. Our group tour on this trip was to the USAF National Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB. The museum itself is unbelievable, as it's hard to picture that one complex could display so many aircraft, from the earliest (Dayton native) Wright Brothers plane, right up to the latest B-2, F-22 and F-35s, and pretty much everything in between.

My fond memories of the Reeves Ironman Reunions past are the reason why I am determined to ensure that the tradition of Reeves Reunions continue to climb around the country and reunite the only thing that remains of our days on the Reeves. That is, of course, the shipmates that we served with who gather to celebrate one fine warship. So, while the above was a recap of our ten reunions over our 19-year history, I must admit that the best part of the entire reunion process is not necessarily the places.

Charitable/Educational Objectives

The USS Reeves Association is an educational, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization registered with the Internal Revenue Service, FEIN 86-1163983. For that purpose at the 2010 business meeting, it was recommended that future excess funds be used for donations and scholarships as determined at business meetings starting in 2012.

The best part is the time spent with each other in the reunion hospitality room, at breakfast, going out to dinners, or just out wandering around to take in the local attractions. The magic is not the location, but the opportunity to sit around with our Reeves family and catch up with each other over great conversations, truth-verified sea stories, and perhaps a few adult beverages. It's been the same at each and every reunion..... our time spent with shipmates and friends is the main reason our reunions are worth attending. The tours and attractions are just good incentives to arrive at a different location each time.

Please consider joining us in Florida for our 11th reunion. We have gone through all the available options and think we have found the best deal we could find to provide a good venue for the reunion, a lot of cool things to see and do, while keeping the price in line with our recent reunions and your expectations. That makes this a good time to take a look at your calendar and see if a trip to Pensacola is in your future. There will be plenty more information about the reunion sent out as we get our act together on tours and banquet menus and other oddities. Stay tuned.

So, for now, we wish you all fair winds and following seas, and hope to see you in October.

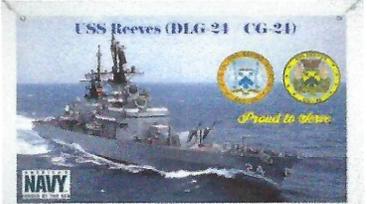
//tom

Tom Bailey (B-Div 84-87) / President, USS Reeves Association

Shift Colors

To receive the Navy's Shift Colors newsletter via email send the following information to Mill_ShiftColors@navy.mil -- First name; Last name; E-mail address; Title (Mr., Mrs., rank, etc.); and Military affiliation (retiree, surviving spouse, veteran, other). There is no longer any funding for hard copies to be printed and mailed. To receive Shift Colors it does not matter whether or not you're retired, active duty, a veteran, a surviving spouse, or just someone who's interested in receiving the newsletter.

Ship's Store

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Photo #1 1967 11" x 17" \$10 + s/h</p>  | <p>Embroidered Golf Shirt \$20 + s/h 2X and 3X add \$2.00</p>  | <p>Reeves HD Vinyl Banner, 30"x48" \$30. Each + \$14. s/h</p>  |
| <p>Photo#2 1972 11" x 17" \$10 + s/h</p>  | <p>Embroidered T-Shirt \$15 + s/h 2X and 3X add \$2.00</p>  | <p>Reeves 2" custom acrylic coated Challenge Coins \$14. ea +\$3.50 s/h for 1st coin & \$.1.00 ea for extras.</p>  |
| <p>Photo#3 1986 11" x 17" \$10 + s/h</p>  | <p>DLG or CG Ball Caps \$12 + s/h</p>  | <p>4" DLG or CG Stickers & 4"x8' Bumper Stickers</p>  |

USS Reeves Association Ship's Store Order Form

| Item | Description / Size | Qty | Price | Shipping Handling | Total |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-----|-------|------------------------|-------|
| Photos | Specify Photo# 1, 2, or 3 | | | \$2.00 each | |
| Ball Cap | Specify DLG or CG | | | \$5.00 each | |
| Vinyl Banners | | | | \$14.00 each | |
| Challenge Coins | Limit of three | | | \$3.50 /1 .00 for addl | |
| Golf Shirt | Sizes run large | | | \$6.00 each | |
| T-Shirt | Sizes run large | | | \$6.00 each | |
| Bumper Sticker | 4" x 8" Vinyl | | | \$4.00 each | |
| Vinyl Stickers | *Specify DLG or CG | | | \$1.00 each | |
| | | | | Total | |

Shipping is via USPS Priority.

Checks Only, please make payable to:

Kurt Stuvengen
410 E. Spring St
Orfordville, WI 53576
Cell: (608) 921-5586

Name: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Phone#: _____ E-Mail: _____

Problems with Third Party Websites

Shipmates,

I had an experience last summer that completely changed my mind on booking travel plans. It started easily enough by booking a hotel I knew in a place where I was to meet some friends. I did my usual thing and went on-line to the hotel I wanted to book. I made the reservation and off we go..... no problems. Right up until a few weeks later when the credit card bill shows up and I see that I have been booked for, and paid for, two rooms for the same night. No biggie I figure, just a double-booking error. I called the hotel, and they confirmed that it was an obvious error, and they cancel the second room. When I get to the hotel a few weeks later, I still have two rooms booked. That's when I found out from the hotel that I had not actually booked with them but instead had been booked through a third-party agency; Booking.com. This was news to me. I thought I was dealing with the hotel website. The clerk explained that the third-party companies often pay to have their websites intercept internet hotel booking pages, and you suddenly find yourself dealing with someone you had no intention of dealing with.

The hotel clerk told me that they see this all the time and that Booking.com, and like companies, will not refund the second night. The clerk told me that I should contact the booking agency to inquire about a refund, but that would probably end up going through my credit card company to get it resolved. I tried repeatedly to get through to someone at Booking.com, but alas there was no way you could actually get to a person to voice a complaint.

I ended up going through my credit card company to get it fixed. My credit card company was fine with refunding the second night but warned me that it would take some doing for them to get paid. Turns out they were right, and there were two separate inquiries where I supplied information on the sale before it finally got resolved. To this day I'm not sure if Citi Bank prevailed over the booking company, or if they just took care of me and ate the loss.

The bottom line is that there are companies out there who are willing to rob you while you are watching. There is no doubt in my mind that there was never a double booking. And there was never a question that Booking.com always intended to charge me for two nights when they knew it was an error. We saw something similar when several of our shipmates tried to book rooms in Dayton for the 2023 reunion. In that case the hotel had provided us with bad information, but we still ended up with several people victimized by the system. The worse part is that once you book with these guys, we are not able to help you.

The bottom line is that we all have to protect ourselves by closely monitoring who we are dealing with when we book any sort of service. I am bringing this up because we are once again about to book rooms for a reunion. In this case we have a confirmed reservation link to contact our hotel, and the option of calling the hotel directly. I have checked out both paths, and they both work. If there are any problems, or you do not think you are getting what we discussed in the column, please stop the reservation process and contact me (Tom Bailey), and I will call the hotel and straighten it out for you. This is the only way we can make sure that none of us end up having a bad experience.

//tom

On the subject of Association Dues.....

We as an organization exist to keep our shipmates connected. That's done through Newsletters, our website, and our reunions. It cost money to do all these things, and we are mostly supported by membership dues. The dues are relatively inexpensive, as veterans' organizations go, at \$20.00 per year. We also have Life memberships that add to our coffers by simply paying those dues over the lifetime of the member. We also get some donations and occasionally make a few dollars above cost in our ships store. We try to be efficient and stay ahead of the spending curve to have front money for reunion expenses. All things considered, we have just enough in savings to keep us moving along.

What we don't have is consistency with our due's income. It's not because our members aren't willing to pay the dues, it more like we tend to operate in two-year cycles - just like our reunions. What happens is that our members tend to catch-up on dues when we get ready for the next reunion and send along one year's payment with the reunion sign-up paperwork. Some pay for both years, but we find that most just pay for one. We're not saying that this is anything but an oversight on the part of our members, as our two-year reunion cycle does not exactly encourage members to pay annual dues. Unfortunately, the costs associated with Newsletter, and the like, go on all the time, so the annual dues income is truly needed to be prepared for up-front reunion costs and ships store purchasing expenses.

At our business meeting in Providence, we discussed the annual dues issue and determined that we needed the dues income on an annual basis. We voted to keep the dues at \$20.00 per year, and to make the dues cycle a two-year expense. **So, the dues are now in-line with our two-year reunion cycle at \$40.00 for two years.** We also decided to keep the peace, and to not pursue any past dues owed from before 2018. Not that it was too much trouble to collect, we simply would rather not be sending out past-due type correspondence. We want our shipmates to be on-board, and you-owe-us letters are a way to end such relationships.

Our new dues routine is \$40.00 for two-years. You certainly have the option to send us \$20 per year, but it would be much easier for us to track if the check was for \$40. We also invite you to consider life-membership. Life membership is ma great way to support the organization and to know you are always caught-up on dues.

Speaking of which, please join me in welcoming aboard our three newest Life Members.

- **David Ashby**
- **Gerry Hines**
- **Jerry Krieger**



US Navy hits drone with HELIOS laser in successful test

US Navy hits drone with HELIOS laser in successful test

By [Riley Ceder](#), Military Times
Tuesday, Feb 4, 2025



In this undated photo from fiscal 2024, the Preble fires its HELIOS system during weapons testing. (DOT&E)

The U.S. Navy successfully tested its High-Energy Laser with Integrated Optical Dazzler and Surveillance, or HELIOS, system on one of its warships in fiscal 2024, [according](#) to a recently released report. The Arleigh Burke-class destroyer Preble fired its HELIOS system to zap an aerial drone during a weapons testing exercise in 2024, according to an Office of the Director, Operational Test and Evaluation report published in January.

The report, which did not provide a date or time of the laser’s deployment, included a black-and-white photo showing a streak of white light beaming out from the vessel into the sky.

The Center for Countermeasures — a program developed in 1972 to gauge the Defense Department’s ability to combat emerging technological threats — conducted 32 tests in fiscal year 2024, which included the “development and evaluation of directed energy weapons,” according to the report.

This test conducted on the Preble was run “to verify and validate the functionality, performance, and capability” of the HELIOS system, the report said.

It’s unclear where the test took place. The Preble departed Naval Base San Diego, California, in September 2024 and [arrived](#) in Yokosuka, Japan, on Oct. 12, 2024.

Lockheed Martin delivered the 60-plus-kilowatt laser to the Navy in August 2022, when it became the first tactical laser system to be installed in existing ships.

Unmanned warfare, especially in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, where Navy ships have intercepted drones and missiles launched by Iran-backed Houthi rebels since fall 2023, has underscored the need to accelerate

(Continued on page 11)

US Navy hits drone with HELIOS laser in successful test (cont)

(Continued from page 10)

the technology's deployment for the Navy, Military Times previously [reported](#).

In 2024, Vice Adm. Brendan McLane, acknowledging the Navy did not have a laser it could field, noted a directed-energy weapon would assist U.S. warships against Houthi combatants.

The integration of lasers on Navy vessels would also allow crews to conserve munitions, Military Times previously [reported](#).

The Defense Department has spent \$1 billion annually to develop high-energy lasers and high-power microwaves, but without the tangible results that Navy leadership craves, according to the same report.

The service has faced challenges in developing and implementing directed-energy weapons for myriad reasons, including difficulty determining laser use in the field and concerns the system won't meet operational needs. Overall tech development, finding a power source aboard ships and potential obstacles presented by the environment, like fog and wind, have also proved challenging.

Currently, the Navy has eight Optical Dazzling Interdictor, or ODIN, laser dazzlers, which disrupt enemy sensors, integrated into Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, [according](#) to the Congressional Research Service's December 2024 report on Navy lasers. There is also a 150-kilowatt Laser Weapon System Demonstrator, or LWSD, installed on a San Antonio-class amphibious transport ship.

[Riley Ceder](#)

Riley Ceder is a reporter at Military Times, where he covers breaking news, criminal justice, investigations, and cyber.



Changes to our Newsletter Delivery System.....

We seemed to have encountered a problem with the mailing of the last newsletter, specifically Winter 2025, or 17-1, if you're keeping count. The problem became apparent when several shipmates reported that they had either not received their newsletter, or were enquiring about the 2025 reunion. We did some searching and found that the newsletter service that we have been using since 2008 was having trouble getting our newsletters delivered to some email providers. We are forced to use a paid distribution network to distribute our emails due to the sheer volume of 500 emails every time we send anything. My yahoo.com account will not take that joke.

Upon looking further into the situation, we found that roughly half of the Gmail addressed were not being delivered, and that just the ones we know about. One cure was to poll our members and see who wasn't getting the mail, but that was self-defeating since they were probably the crowd not getting the newsletters. The next fix was to get shipmates to check in their SPAM folders for the newsletter and re-direct it to their in-boxes. Easier said than done, as a few of our users are not really up to that task. SO, we decided to look around and see what other services may be out there as an option to solve our problem.

We conducted a search and found that "Constant Contact" was probably the best solution for our needs. It's more expensive than the service we were using, but they seem to have the deliver scheme all worked out and can generate reports as to not only what was sent, but also what was opened by the addressee. So now we'll know that we're getting through.

This is all in an effort to make sure our shipmates get the information and have everything they need to visit the next reunion in Pensacola. The new service also allows us to conduct more and better communication services with our members.

I am sending along a copy of the Winter 2025 Newsletter, Edition 17-1 PLUS to make sure it's getting out to everyone. Sorry for the redundancy, but we don't know who did not receive the original version. This version also includes the **Reunion Registration Schedule and Registration Forms**, that were not included in the original newsletter mailing. The information on the schedule and registration forms was not available then, so please check out pages 13 and 14 in the Winter 2025 / 17-1 PLUS version of the newsletter. Sorry for the inconvenience..... turns out we're still on a learning curve here.

Reunion Tour Information (NEW INFORMATION)

Tuesday 10/14 – Tour to USS Alabama Battleship Park. Mobile Alabama

Transportation cost \$36 per person / Park Admission \$15 per person

Lunch – Hot Dogs/Chips/Beer/Soda/Water (hosted by Todd and Jane Larson)

Depart Hotel 0900 at Battleship Park 1000 to 1400

Depart Battleship Park 1400 for Veterans Memorial (South Wall) Park, Pensacola at the Park approximately (1) hour then back to the Hotel

Wednesday 10/15 – NAS Pensacola / Naval Air Museum/ Blue Angel Practice

Cost included in Reunion Registration Fee

Cost includes Bus transportation, Blue Angel Practice (weather dependent), chair for practice show, buffet lunch at Cubi Bar, Museum tour.

Depart Hotel 0830, Museum opens at 0900 and Air Show is 1030 to approx. 1130.

Depart Museum at 1500 for Hotel.

NOTE: Times are all approximate!!!

**USS REEVES (DLG-24/CG-24) ASSOCIATION REUNION
2025 REUNION SCHEDULE
OCTOBER 13-17, 2025**

Make hotel reservations with the **Holiday Inn Pensacola University Hotel, 7813 North Davis Hwy, Pensacola, FL 32513** or make direct reservations by calling the hotel directly at (850472-1400 or on-line at with the following link:

https://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=PNSND&_PMID=99801505&GPC=REE&cn=no&viewfullsite=true

and use the group code **REE**. Please tell them you are part of the “USS Reeves Association Reunion” to ensure proper credit to our Association and to receive the group rate (\$125.00 per night).

Reunion Schedule

Monday, October 13th

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| All Day | USN Birthday! |
| 10:00 to 1500 | Set-up at the USS Reeves Hospitality Suite (visitors and helpers welcome) |
| 1500 | Hotel Check-in Opens. Reunion check-in at the Hospitality Suite |
| 1500 to Close | Hospitality Suite OPEN for business. (Snacks, adult beverages / some sea-stories) |

Tuesday, October 14th

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0800 to 1800 | Hospitality Suite OPEN for business. (Snacks, adult beverages and more sea-stories) |
| 0900 to 1600 | Bus Trip to the USS Alabama Museum in Mobile Alabama.. Bus transportation + \$35 per person |
| 1800 to 2000 | Welcome Reception in Hospitality Room with Pizza Party |
| 2000 to Close | Hospitality Suite OPEN for business. (Snacks, adult beverages / advanced sea-stories) |

Wednesday, October 15th

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0830 to 1600 | Group outing to The US Naval Air Station Pensacola. Includes transportation, seating for the Blue Angels Practice Show, lunch at the Cubi Point O’Club Bar, and a guided tour of The US Naval Aviation Museum. The FEE for the entire days activities are included in our inclusive reunion registration fee. |
| 1700 to Close | Hospitality Suite OPEN for business. (Snacks. adult beverages / more advanced sea-stories) |

Thursday, October 16th

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0900 to 1300 | Hospitality Suite OPEN for business. (Adult beverages and updated sea-stories) |
| 1200 to 1500 | Reeves Ladies-only Social Event |
| 1300 to 1530 | Reeves Association Bi-Annual Business Meeting – Hospitality Room |
| 1730 to 1900 | Holiday Inn Banquet Room / Cash-bar happy hour: Group/Individual Photos |
| 1900 to 2200 | Holiday Inn Banquet room / Reunion Banquet with a special Guest Speaker |
| 2200 to Close | Hospitality Suite OPEN for fun and door prizes. (Adult beverages / highly advanced sea-stories) |

Friday, October 17th

| | |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 0800 to Noon | Hotel checkout & departure (helpers are appreciated) |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------|

Thursday Evening’s Banquet Menu Choices

Dinner this year is a buffet set-up, which offers us both cost savings and better variety. Dinner starts with Fresh Fruit, Cheese and Vegetable Trays The buffet selections include a Beef entree , Chicken entrée, and a Seafood entree. The buffet includes Chefs Choice Vegetable, starch, and dessert. We also have the choice of a garden salad Pasta Sald, or artichoke, tomato and red onion salad. Dinner includes a Tossed green salad served with choice of dressing, Pasta Sald, or Artichoke, Tomato and Red Onion salad, and fresh baked rolls, and butter. Fresh brewed regular or decaf coffee, hot water, herbal Tea, Iced Tea, and soda. Vegetarian and Gluten Free selections are available upon request.

**USS REEVES (DLG-24/CG-24 ASSOCIATION REUNION
2025 REGISTRATION FORM
OCTOBER 13-17, 2025**

Name _____ Phone # _____

Complete Address: _____

Email address _____

Guest's Full Name _____

Years served on board: 19_____ to 19_____, Division: _____ Rank/Rate onboard _____

I will attend the reunion _____ I am bringing _____ guest(s) I am Retired Military: Yes / No

To help the hotel prepare for the Buffet, please provide your preferences for dinner. (you can still have whatever you like, but it would be helpful for planning purposes. – one per member and one per guest

_____ Beef Entree # _____ Chicken Entree # _____ Seafood Entree # _____ Vegetarian / Gluten Free

Registration Fee: There is a single, all-inclusive fee of \$110 per person for the reunion. This fee covers all the things that the association provides to make the reunion occur. This includes the costs associated with the welcome reception, beverages & snacks for four days in the hospitality room, the cost of the banquet meals, reunion ball caps, genuine Reeves Bling, door prizes, event insurance, postage / shipping costs, transportation lunch and seating for the NAS Pensacola Tour, and a variety of attendee materials. The USS Alabama Tour is not included in this fee.

Reeves Association Shirts – This is a handsome, high quality, Navy Blue polo shirt with the USS Reeves Association logo embroidered on the left chest. Sizes available: S, M, L, XL, XXL and XXXL. The price for shirts is \$20 (add \$2 for sizes XXL and XXXL). ___ Yes, I would like a shirt(s). Qty: ___ S , ___ M , ___ L , ___ XL , ___ XXL , ___ XXX

Reeves Ballcaps DLG or CG – \$12.00 each for DLG or CG designs Qty: ___ DLG , ___ CG.

TOTAL attending the USS Alabama Museum Tour (Bus \$36/ Admission \$15, & lunch) X \$36.00 eqch = _____

TOTAL attending the NAS Pensacola Blue Angels Practice & Museum Tour X \$0 cost = _____

TOTAL interested in the Thursday Ladies Social Event (during annual business meeting): YES ___ NO ___

TOTAL for Shirts x \$20 (or \$22.00 for XXL an XXXL sizes) = \$ _____

TOTAL for Ballcaps x \$12 (DLG or CG Circle one) = \$ _____

DUES - Renew your 2022/23 Association Dues at this time: \$ 40 for two years. Enclosed for Dues \$ _____

TOTAL Enclosed for Registration Fee, Tour, Shirts, Hats, and Dues = \$ _____

Please complete and return no later than 9/1/2025 (sooner if at all possible!); make check payable to:

USS REEVES ASSOCIATION

Mail to:

Tom Bailey, Reunion Planner

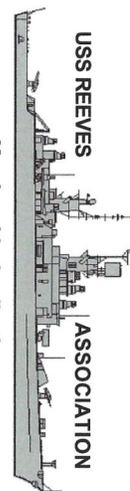
1154 S Greenway Ave, Pueblo West, CO. 81007-1745 / (719) 647-2872



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 Pueblo West, CO 81007-1745
<http://www.ussreeves.net>

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I served on the USS REEVES (DLG-24/CG-24) as a _____ (rate/rank) from 19 _____ to 19 _____. Division: _____.

Membership in the Association includes the right to vote and hold elective office. It also includes receiving the "Ironman Newsletter", email updates and further privileges as to be determined by the Board of Directors. We kept the dues at \$20.00 per year but have recently changed the duration to match our two-year reunion cycles.

Dues: \$40.00 for two years

I also wish to support the goals of the Association which is the building of a membership that will increase interest in bi-annual reunions, as well as the establishment of a newsletter and other means of communicating our activities with all Reeves shipmates. I am making an additional donation of \$ _____.

I enclose my check or money order in the amount of \$ _____.

I am interested in helping the Association grow and become successful. I wish to serve on a committee, provide other assistance or have an interest as follows:

Please mail application and check to:

USS REEVES (DLG-24/CG-24) ASSOCIATION
 1154 S Greenway Ave
 Pueblo West, CO 81007

For further information call or email **Tom Bailey** at (719) 647-2872
tombailey@ussreeves.net

Or find more details online at: <http://www.ussreeves.net/association.html>