

# The Vance

## VANCE ASSOCIATION

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March 2016

Vol: XV

## REUNION EDITION

**2016 REUNION** The Chattanooga, in Chattanooga, TN., 09/11-09/16. Reservation deadline is August 15, 2016. Room rate is good for 2 days before and after the reunion. Cost is \$111.39 (includes tax) per night. This is \$10 cheaper than Plymouth. There are 15 rooms blocked and we need them filled for 5 nights to get this rate and a free conference room.

**RESERVATIONS** call 1-800-619-0018 M-F & 1000-1800 Sat. On-line anytime @ <http://www.chattanooga.com>. Mention Group code #587070 & reference Vance Association. to insure we are credited. To access your room block & rates. Click on Groups & then enter your Group ID. Individual cancellation policy requires being done 48 hours prior to arrival date. August 15th is the hotel cutoff date.

### TRANSPORTATION:

**CAR RENTALS** Available at the Airport Website: [airport car rentals](#)  
Avis (423) 855-2232  
Budget (423) 855-2224  
Enterprise (423) 855-2288

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sep 11 Sunday PM	Start Chattanooga Reunion Check in 4 PM
Sep 12 Monday	10 AM Association Business Meeting
Sep 12 Monday	PM Open
Sep 13 Tuesday*	Chickamauga/Chattanooga Battlefield tour
Sep 14 Wednesday**	Tennessee Valley RR Excursion
Sep 15 Thursday AM	AM open
Sep 15 Thursday PM*	GROUP photo & 50/50 & Auction Hospitality Room **Evening Banquet Cruise aboard the Southern Belle
Sep 16 Friday	1200 Check Out. Depart Chattanooga.

\* car pool      \*\* As of this writing these are not confirmed.  
Agenda for Business Meeting; Proposals for

Enterprise (423) 855-2288  
Hertz (423) 855-8131  
National (423) 855-2229 (Also at the hotel, could return there same day and save parking charges)  
Thrifty/Dollar (423) 855-2277\*  
\*Thrifty/Dollar is located off-site. They will send a shuttle to pick you up from the airport.

### AIRPORT

Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport  
1001 Airport Rd, Chattanooga, TN 37421  
[Airport website](#)  
Driving Directions from the airport:  
Follow Highway 153 south to I-75

Follow Highway 153 south to I-75 South. Take I-24 West toward Chattanooga. Exit at #178 and follow U.S. 27 North. Take exit 1A and turn right on M.L. King. Go 2 blocks, turn right on Broad Street. Go four blocks, turn right on 13th Street. Turn right into The Chattanooga courtyard.  
<http://www.chattairport.com/www/docs/166/book-a-chattanooga-flight>

Front: (L to R) Jerry Blum, Joe Betters, Chuck Bonnell, Bob Howey, Bruce Swanson, Ernie Travers  
Rear: George Blust, Robert Shaffer, Jim Ensey, Don Walls, John Prideaux, Frank

New Wardroom elected at Plymouth.  
MAA, Frank; CO, Robert: XO Gary; Chaplain, Bruce; Disbursing, Bob; History, George



Front (L to R): Carolyn Travers, Joanne Blum, Irene Streeter, Diana Howey, Tsui Ensey, Beth

Swanson  
Rear: Connie Betters, Darlene Walls, Tina Prideaux, Alma Shaffer, Gwen Van Norman,



**Minutes of Vance Association  
Business Meeting 5 October 2015,  
Hampton Inn & Suites, Plymouth MA,**

Meeting was called to order by CO Blum at 1000. There were no new members attending this reunion. Chaplain VanNorman offered an opening prayer. Members rose and recited the pledge of allegiance CO Blum thanked all members for donating food and snacks for the reunion. Bruce Swanson mentioned that our current CO, Jerome Blum., is the new national commander of the Jewish War Veterans. A hearty round of applause ensued. Disburser/Yeoman Bob Howey presented financial report and minutes of last business meeting. Both were accepted without discussion. There was no other old business to report or discuss.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Nominations were solicited from the floor for wardroom officers for the next two years. Names placed in nomination were for CO, Gary Guinn and Robert Shaffer. Robert Shaffer elected CO for 2015-2017. Gary Guinn and Bruce Swanson were nominated for XO. Gary Guinn was elected for 2015-2017. Bruce Swanson was elected Chaplain without opposition as Frank VanNorman cannot succeed himself. Frank VanNorman and Mike Streeter were nominated for MAA. Frank VanNorman elected MAA for

2015-2017. Chaplain Bruce Swanson invited Frank VanNorman to be assistant chaplain and he graciously accepted. The gavel was passed from CO Blum to new CO Robert Shaffer. **Nominations were solicited from the floor for reunion sites for 2016.** The following sites were nominated and first round voting totals were: Gatlinburg TN-14, Galveston TX-1, San Antonio TX 11, Tiffin OH-0, Branson MO-1, Galveston, Tiffin and Branson were eliminated from consideration due to low vote count. Second round voting results: Gatlinburg-14, San Antonio-12. Both locations to be researched for best all around feasibility.

**Connie Betters** commended George Blust for his many trips from Ohio to Cape Cod to reunion sites and back to the Cape. She called him "an amazingly kind man". Photos were taken of the newly elected and holdover wardroom members. Group photos were also taken of the men and women in attendance. Connie Betters briefed the members on Plimoth Plantation. Head count 25 plus one expected guest. Chaplain Bruce Swanson offered a closing prayer. CO Rober Shaffer closed the meeting at 1045. Note: Subsequent to the formal meeting the decision was made to research Chattanooga TN as a possible reunion site vice Gatlinburg due to the Gatlinburg airport being

airport being some distance from possible excursion locations and other considerations.

**As of** this writing there is \$2305.14 in the Association checkbook

1. **My first** job was working in an Orange Juice factory, but I got canned. Couldn't concentrate.
  2. Then I worked in the woods as a Lumberjack, but just couldn't hack it, so they gave me the ax.
  3. After that, I tried being a Tailor, but wasn't suited for it--mainly because it was a sew-sew job, and people liked to hem and haw about the price.
  4. Next, I tried working in a Muffler Factory, but that was too exhausting.
  5. Then, tried being a Chef - figured it would add a little spice to my life, but just didn't have the thyme.
  6. Next, I attempted being a Deli Worker, but any way I sliced it....couldn't cut the mustard.
  7. My best job was a Musician, but eventually found I wasn't noteworthy.
  8. I studied a long time to become a Doctor, but didn't have any patience.
  9. Next, was a job in a Shoe Factory. Tried hard but just didn't fit in.
- Thanks to Ron Fournier**



Bob Howey shared this. Included in our visit to Battleship Cove, Fall River, MA, and the USS MASSACHUSETTS (BB-59) were an unguided tour of the ship, a catered lunch in the mess decks followed by a memorial service held just aft of one of the 16" gun mounts and under the gun barrels. We were provided with chairs, flags, podium, a sound system with operator, speakers and appropriate music. We also had a brass bell struck by Robert Shaffer (co) and Gary Guinn (xo) after each departed shipmate's name. Read by Bruce Swanson (chaplain) and Frank VanNorman (maa)..

After the service, a group of ten shipmates were afforded a guided tour of one boiler room in the battleship. Our guide was a retired senior engineering officer with many years of experience in engine and boiler rooms on large ships. We were equipped with a hard hat and flashlight each and escorted a number of decks down to the boiler room. P3C1

We negotiated a number decks, ladders and tight turns on our climb down to our destination. We chuckled at our lack of speed in making this climb. Time had definitely taken its toll on all of us in a number of ways!

Our guide was exceptionally knowledgeable about the piping, pumps, gauges and associated equipment in this space. Amongst our group were at least four former boiler technicians including a retired CPO with thirty years of service. There were enginemen in our group and the rest main deck and above sailors. Our guide went into some detail in pointing out various items of equipment and its function in the process of creating, filtering and pumping water wherever needed on the ship. Our former boilermen were particularly intrigued by this talk and reflected back many years of working with similar equipment albeit on a smaller scale. There were many interactions between our group and our guide and he appreciated our collective interest in his tour.

Those of us who never had to spend time in a space such as this, four hours at a time, every day for weeks at a time at sea could only imagine the feelings associated with the confined space and extreme heat along with the responsibility of doing your job.

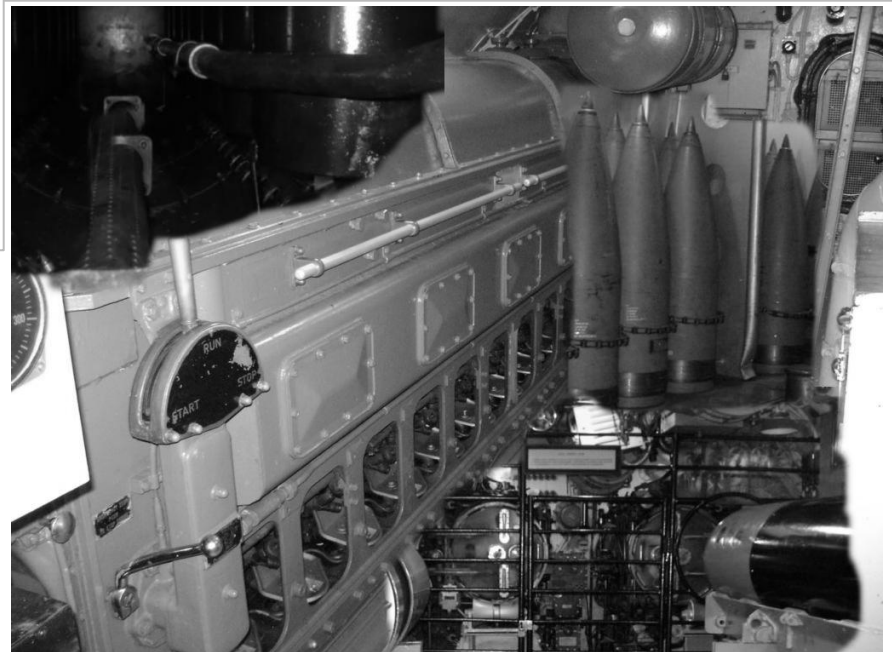
Our guided tour lasted nearly three hours, yes, a three hour tour! We will talk about this experience for many years to come. It was a once in a lifetime experience!

**Jim Ensey** also noted. Our guide took us behind the locked doors and explained all about the 1200 pound steam boilers which power the ship.



Our Deck Crew

**There** are many requests to find people or ship information. Quite a few grandchildren and children have questions. Many just want to share an experience they've heard about all their life. We also have shipmates finding each other. The video's I post have helped with this. The latest video shot by various crewmen. The file was given to our Bill Karsikas AKA Bill Kelly. Some of you will remember Bill and son in TX. wearing white brimed hats. Bill, fighting illness, composed a number of guitar tracks for the video. The video was uploaded to YouTube by his producer. Now what we need is narration (voice over) to describe the action and crew. The video was renamed "Navy Life At Sea" (this was shot in early 66) and is posted by Michael Walters @ [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D43sCHE5\\_ZE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D43sCHE5_ZE). If you can watch this and when you see someone or thing you know "pause" and note the timeline and write to me with the information. A great job was done with the re-edit by all involved. It will be better when narrated.



Can you guess what you won't find in the engine room?

## SHIPMATES TO BE REMEMBERED

Adam, Martin M. ; Akonom, Stephen J. ; Allbright, Ireland ; Ambrosino, Raffaello ; Anderson, Eric A. ; Applegate, Gerald T. ; Arnheiter, Marcus A. ; Atkinson, Richard E. ; Ballard, Tom ; Barron, John L. ; Bebee, Ken ; Bertrand, Alex Sr. ; Beyer, Clarence ; Blake, John ; Blizard, Edward B. ; Boedecker, Eugene ; Borrowes, Anthony ; Branin, Alvin M. ; Breitweiser, George F. ; Brodhead, Edward ; Brouner, Albert M. ; Bubb, Donald A. ; Bulla, John A. ; Bumpas, Dexter ; Burkholder, Jan ; Carpenter, Edward G. ; Carpenter, Morris M. ; Casaletta, Joseph C. ; Chesnic, Silver J. ; Collignon, Charles R. ; Cook, Francis J. Jr. ; Cookson, Henry K. ; Cooper, George W. ; Cordova, Duane L. ; Cornejo, Hector Sr. ; Couch, Cliff ; Deflin, Ralph ; Dickson, Gust E. O. ; Dillard, Earl S. ; Diricco, Baldo J. ; Donnelly, William J. ; Drew, George ; Duepner, Charles J. ; Earles, Stephen ; Estes, Floyd T. ; Faller, Carl Sr. ; Fenstermaker, James B. ; Finan, William ; Forbes, Richard ; Foust, Dennis ; Freeto, Clyde E. ; Fulp, William M. Sr. ; Garafollo, Dominic ; Gescy, Frank ; Gillis, Cecil ; Gissiner, Jack A. ; Green, Gerald D. ; Grissom, Everett R. ; Grootkett, Thomas E. ; Haberkern, Joseph W. Jr. ; Hamitton, Francis ; Hamitton, Max E. ; Hansen, Ludolf ; Hart, Fred C. Jr. ; Hart, William A. ; Harvit, Harold E. ; Helmer, Frank V. ; Herens, James ; Harry Hess, Jr. ; Hinckley, Ricardo ; Holcomb, Leland USAF ; Holzman, Richard ; Horne, Hainyard L. Jr. ; Hoyt, Irvin ; Jenkins, William ; Johnston, Charles R. Jr. ; Johnston, Robert ; Jokinen, Reino ; Jones, George E. ; Jones, Robert F. ; Juzaitis, Frank D. ; Kanelos, George A. ; Kelly, James R. ; Koenker, Robert H. ; Kohl, Anthony V. ; Krusell, Kenneth K. ; LaGassey, Harvey W. Jr. ; Laipply, Charles T. ; Lawanas, Stanley J. ; Lee, A.R. ; Levand, Irvin ; Linhart, Walter ; Lucas, William Harry ; Mack, Bruno ; Manseau, Raymond ; Markland, Clayton B. ; Marvonek, Paul ; Mathews, Leslie J. ; Matters, Leslie ; McCarthy, John B. ; McClelland, Joseph J. ; McCreary, William ; McFadden, William ; McKillop, Donald A. ; McMahan, Billy Ray ; Megargee, Irwin F. ; Meisner, Julian ; Miller, Larry ; Mohr, Armin ; Mooney, Ronie ; Munick, Henry Chet ; Neugebauer, George R. ; Nolan, Clifford D. ; Nordness, Jack J. ; Nunn, Wallace H. Sr. ; Ott, Charles ; Ott, Charles R. ; Ott, William ; Ottariano, Albert J. ; Parks, Alvin H. ; Pasquale, Louis J. ; Penny, Clinton H. ; Penny, Harmon C. ; Prael, William ; Provencal, Albert G. ; Pugh, Melvin Randy ; Quintoni, James ; Radau, Eugene L. ; Rancich, Joseph ; Randle, Vance K. ; Rardin, Bernard L. ; Reid, William ; Roland, Edwin J. ; Rothwell, Kenneth L. ; Royer, Maynard D. ; Sams, John E. ; Sanders, Clarida ; Saul, Clyde R. ; Scarbro, Don Q. ; Schickling, Charles G. Sr. ; Schneider, Jacob (Jake) ; Schooler, Russel ; Scruggs, Charlie B. ; Silk, Charles W. ; Simms, David E. ; Sklar, Aaron Albert ; Sondergaard, Don ; Sparlin, Arthur Jr. ; Spurny, Joseph Sr. ; Stanley, Ralph W. ; Swain, Robert M. ; Swan, Robert S. ; Swanson, James A. ; Theriot, Leonsen P. ; Thornnes, John ; Trent, Burgess D. ; Trifiletti, John ; Turner, Ramon S. ; Vance, Joseph W. ; Van Overborg, Arthur ; Vanteemsche, Charles Sr. ; Wakefield, Mandel ; Waters, James C. ; Watkins, Augustus A. ; Watson, Arthur ; Webb, Samuel H. Jr. ; Webber, Clayton E. Sr. ; Weber, Otto ; Weinfurt, Louis W. ; White, William ; Whitmore, James F. ; Williams, Larry A. ; Williams, Thomas Dan ; Wise, Joe E. ; Woollen, William ; Wright, Ross W. ; Wyzykowski, Richard ; Yasinsac, Joseph ; Yates, Ernie O. ; Young, William ; Ziclewicz, Francis S. ;

**Does** anyone remember the pilot we picked up off the coast of Vietnam, when Arnheiter was captain? There was an F-4 that belly landed, we rowed a life raft over to it and the pilot stepped off the wing into the raft and never even got wet. This is not the one that bailed out of an F105 (Capt. Holcomb) & picked up when Wright was captain. I can't seem to find any record of the F-4 pilot recovery. I follow your website with enjoyment. You and the team have done a great job of documenting the Vance's story. I am Steven Joy; was an ETR2, on the Vance from 1963-1967. I was on the special fire team, ships swimmer, ships photographer, and ET for com & radar. I am an electrical engineer, currently working at Hill AF Base in Utah. I have a couple years before I retire. If any want to contact me, my email is; [steven.joy.1@us.af.mil](mailto:steven.joy.1@us.af.mil) Steven Joy

Edward Fuehrer (DCA MPO 64-67) had this response. Hi, all... I may have forgotten a lot over the years, but I'd be willing to bet anything that the event that Steven is trying to recall never happened on the Vance. No question about Capt. Holcombe, but one involving an F-4, no way...! One dead give-away is that we wouldn't have "...rowed a life raft over to it...". We might have quickly deployed our deadly scout boat, but certainly not a life raft. Another give-away is that if it had happened, Jim Merkle would still be over there writing about it...! Sorry, Steven...!  
Ed

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