



LEE'S SHADOW



THE REBEL YELL

USS ROBERT E. LEE (SSBN/SSN-601)

www.decklog.com/ssbn-601.asp Vol. 2018

From your President - Joe White

We are already six months into 2018 and its already time to start making plans for the 2019 Robert E. Lee Association Reunion that will be held in San Diego, California. Those that attended the reunion in Laughlin in 2017 voted to set the next reunion in San Diego. After a number of locations were recommended the final vote was unanimous to make the 2019 Reunion in San Diego.

We have steadily moved across the Country from the East Coast in Newport News, Virginia to Nashville and then to Branson, Missouri. In Branson, the membership that attended that reunion voted to go to Laughlin, Nevada. The vote to go to San Diego made the complete sweep across the Continent.

For a lot of our membership this will be the first time back to San Diego since either being stationed there or going to Boot Camp. I was in Boot Camp at the NTC in 1966 so I was excited to go back and see what has happened to the NTC and the entire area.

We will be putting together a reunion that we hope will be one to remember. There are so many things to do in San Diego and I think this will be a good time to make your plans to attend.

Why do we go to the Robert E. Lee Association Reunions or to just be blunt to any reunion? I believe we go for the following reasons:

- To reconnect with old friends and meet new ones that served on the Robert E. Lee.
- To hear Sea Stories that of course have been embellished.

- To show support for our Association that is aging and to show support for continuing this Association.
- To honor those are on Eternal Patrol.
- To support the Submarine Service through honoring those that have served and are serving now.

REUNION DATES AND HOTEL

April 25-28, 2019

Holiday Inn San Diego Bayside
4875 North Harbor Drive
San Diego, Ca. 92106

Room Rate: \$127.00 + Tax (Free Parking)

To Make a Reservation

GROUP CODE: USE

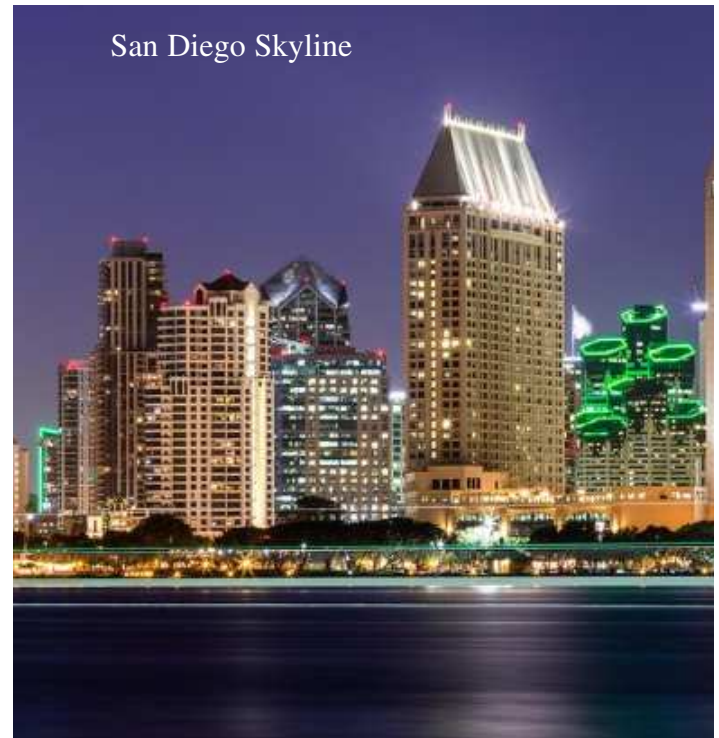
Toll Free # 800-662-8899

Local Phone # 619-224-3621

Website: <http://holinnbayside.com>

We have plenty of rooms blocked for our Association at \$127.00 plus applicable tax. I was very diligent in seeking the best Hotel and location that would be convenient for everyone but not overpriced. If you have a problem booking a room please contact me at 405-410-9206.

HOLIDAY INN SAN DIEGO BAYSIDE



Point Loma Submarine Memorial



USS Recruit (USS Never Sail)



Holiday Inn San Diego Bayside



MEMBERSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

Please provide the Association with your current mailing address and your current email address so we make sure each member of the Association is getting all of our correspondence.



SECRETARY TREASURER COMMENTS

Secretary Treasurer - Chuck Horvath
cdhorvath@comcast.net

Association dues for 2018 are now due. Please mail in your 2018 membership dues to Chuck Horvath at the address listed in this newsletter and make the check out as follows:

USS Robert E Lee Association
C/O Chuck Horvath
435 Somerset Court, Unit B
Aurora, IL 60504

We always appreciate dues paid in advance and any extra you want to donate to the Lee Association to help cover future expenses. All monies received by the Association are used exclusively for the Lee Association and no Officer takes any compensation. The yearly dues will remain at \$10.00. Contact Chuck if you are unsure if your dues have been paid at the address on this newsletter.



VICE PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Vice President - Dale Thompson
(thompsondale@sbcglobal.net)

WOW is time flying! It is hard to believe we are approaching our next reunion. Since the last reunion Sue and I have moved out of California and have returned to Deming, New Mexico. We have a house and are very happy with the slower pace of life. We had a good reunion in Laughlin and I am looking forward to a great reunion in San Diego. I have visited

San Diego but never served there so this will be sort of new to me. My wife and I are working on the raffle and hope to make some good money for the Association this year. If you have anything for the raffle please let me know so we can get a list going of items that will be sold. One of the important things we do at each reunion is select the site for the next reunion. Our rules are you must be present to vote on the location for the next reunion. If you can not attend the San Diego reunion but have a recommendation for a location for our next reunion you can email, call or snail mail me and we can discuss your idea. If you recommend a reunion site we expect you to help in some of the planning. If there is any way you can attend this reunion we would really enjoy seeing you and renewing friendships.

My contact information is:

Dale Thompson
1011 S. Blue Bonnet Dr.
Deming, NM 88030
phone (C) 209-324-4654
email at dale_thompson@msn.com.

See you in less than one year.

Current Association Officers

President	D. Joe White 1704 S. Blvd, Suite A Edmond, Oklahoma 73013 (405-410-9206) Mobile (405-340-5606) Office joewhite727@gmail.com
Vice-President	Dale Thompson thompsondale@sbcglobal.net 11 Schooner Lane Modesto, CA 95356 (209-324-4654) Mobile
Secretary/Treasurer	Chuck D. Horvath 435 Somerset Ct., Unit B Aurora, IL 60504-4088 (630-638-1840) cdhorvath@comcast.net

BILL MURRAY

The following is a word for word reprint from the "Coastal Observer", Pawleys Island, South Carolina newspaper. We found it of great interest and thought it would be an interesting read for the R. E. Lee crew. Bill was a "Plank Owner" and served on board as a Blue crew Cook from 1959 to 1964. Unfortunately he left the boat before I was assigned. It would have been a personal honor for me to meet him.

--Fred Williams

Dateline: 10/15/2015

Obituary: Bill Murray, 91, civic leader was 'a Sandy Island boy.'

Bill Murray grew up on an island and became a bridge between races and cultures. He died Sunday at Waccamaw Community Hospital. He was 91.

A leader in the Pawleys Island community, often working behind the scenes, he was remembered this week for his work to bring people together, provide opportunities for young people and simply make the area a better place to live.

"He used to call himself a little boy from Sandy Island and act like he didn't know what was going on," said Neyle Wilson, president of Horry-Georgetown Technical College, where Murray was a long-time board member. "He was always engaged. He asked penetrating questions."

His own education started in a one-room school and his high school career was interrupted by World War II. He was a passionate advocate for the college and for minority students. "He was a man who believed in serving the needs of all citizens," said Marilyn Fore, senior vice president for academic affairs.

Born May 11, 1924, Willie Herriott Murray spent the first eight years of his life on Sandy Island, one of five children. He said everyone was poor in those days, but didn't realize it. They would listen to the radio for about two months until the battery ran down, then save up for six months to buy a replacement, he recalled in a 2004 interview. He went to the island school and remembered visits from Archer Huntington, the Northern industrialist who created Brookgreen Gardens out of former rice plantations.

His family moved to the Fraserville community at Pawleys Island. He went to Parkersville School for three months a year. "You had to get out and try to make a nickel or a dime to give to mama to raise the rest of [the children]," he said. He caught fish or crabs in the creek to sell for money to go to the movies in Georgetown.

A.H. "Doc" Lachicotte Jr. recalled when he and Murray used to gig for flounder in the salt creek as boys. "He was black and poor. I was white and poor," Lachicotte said. They sold their catch to the boarding houses on Pawleys Island.

Crabs sold for 30 cents a dozen. When Murray began dating Betty Bessellieu, he would try to catch two dozen crabs. With 60 cents, he had enough for admission for two, a 1-pound bag of peanut butter cookies and a nickel's worth of sausage, he recalled in a 2012 interview on the eve of the couple's 70th wedding anniversary.

The Murrays were married in March 1942. He lied about his age because he was only 17. She had just graduated from Howard High School. They kept the marriage a secret because her father didn't approve. A couple of friends loaned the couple \$5: \$3 for the license and \$2 for a meal.

Murray was drafted into the Navy during World War II and ended up in the submarine service. "That's supposed to be all volunteer, but don't believe it," he said in a 2012 interview. "I was standing in the wrong place." He joined the crew of the Plunger in September 1943 as a steward's mate. He made five wartime patrols in the Pacific. On the second patrol, Plunger sank three Japanese ships, but endured a depth charge attack.

Murray also endured bigotry during his naval service. In the 2005 book "Black Submariners in the United States Navy" by Glenn Knoblock, he recounted how he was brought up on charges for refusing to make breakfast for an officer who had returned late to the ship because the captain ordered no breakfast served after 0830. He was ordered to apologize. He refused. He held his ground in the face of the captain's racial insults. He was reduced in rank. "I crawled into my bunk and turned my face toward the torpedo by which I slept and I wept," Murray said.

He left the Navy in December 1945. In 2010, he was part of an Honor Flight of World War II veterans to



Washington, D.C. And returned to cheering crowds at the airport. It was the welcome he didn't receive 65 years earlier.

"Black people just weren't recognized," Murray told students at Waccamaw Middle School. "I didn't really feel like I came home until I got back to that airport. There were so many people, you couldn't hardly get through there," he said.

After the war, Murray returned home and went back to school. He used \$4,000 he had saved from his pay to start building a house. He ran out of money for the project and money from the GI Bill for his education didn't arrive. "The job market was not at all appealing at 45 cents per hour," he said. He reenlisted and continued in the submarine service. He retired in August 1966 and moved home again.

He wanted to go to college and managed it for a year, but he had a child in college, too, and dropped out because he couldn't afford tuition for both. By the time his daughter graduated and he could go back to college, he was working for the Air Force as a civilian and was making enough money that it didn't make sense to go back and get a degree.

Murray worked as a mediator and had a consulting business. The work included a lot of travel. It also honed the skills he used in the community.

"He was a great communicator," Lachicotte said. "He was always trying to bring people together."

They worked together on more projects than Lachicotte could count. "He has helped a great many people. A great many people depended on him," Lachicotte said.

Murray got his real estate license and was an agent with the Lachicotte Co. One of his concerns was about long-time residents losing their property through "heirs property" sales. "He was concerned a lot about people being taken advantage of," Lachicotte said. "He worked a lot on that."

Murray was a founder of the Pawleys Island Civic Club. He obtained the land for a park in the Parkersville area. "We wanted the youth of this community to have the same things that the youth of other communities had," he said.

The land he wanted was a vacant tract owned by Rosa

Parker. He kept asking until one day in 1968 she called and said, "Bill, I'm tired of you interrupting my sleep. Cut off three acres of property and use it for what you all want to use it for," Murray recalled.

A friend of Murray's from the Air Force base in Myrtle Beach sent a team of engineers down to clear the land. It is now the site of the Waccamaw Regional Recreation Center.

"He was a heck of an asset to the community," said Tommy Branyon, president of the Horry-Georgetown Tech board and a friend for 20 years. "If he saw a wrong he needed to right it."

After the death of three Sandy Island residents in a boating accident in 2009, Murray led an effort to raise money for the victims' families and improve transportation to the island.

Murray was also active in his church, Mount Zion Missionary Baptist. He served as a trustee and chaired the building committee when the church built a new sanctuary. The pastor, Rev. Abraham Nelson, who died earlier this year, was a boyhood friend from Sandy Island.

Branyon, a CPA in Andrews, called Murray a mentor. "He was one of the finest people I ever met," he said.

While growing up on Sandy Island, Murray said his dream was that "maybe one day my family would have a boat, because there must be something on the other side," he said. "God blessed me when I crossed that river and I not only crossed rivers, I crossed oceans.

"My dream is for my children to cross bigger oceans than I crossed."

He is survived by his wife, Betty Bessellieu Murray; his children, Germaine Watson, Cynthia Murray, Kirk W. Murray and Rex Murray of Pawleys Island; his sister, Charlotte Sherman of Conway; and his brother, George Murray of Baltimore.

Funeral services will be held Saturday at 1 p.m. at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church by the Rev. Mitchell Adger. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

The family will receive friends at the church starting at 11 a.m.

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Joe White
1704 S. Blvd, Suite A
Edmond, Oklahoma 73013

SSBN 601 ASSOCIATION ENLISTMENT FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Years Aboard _____ Rate/Rank _____ Crew Blue or Gold

Is this a renewal? Y N

Number of years renewing for _____ x \$10.00 = _____

Make check payable to: USS Robert E. Lee Association

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435 Somerset Court, Unit B
Aurora, IL 60504