



USS SHANGRI-LA
Reunion Association

HORIZON
April 2026

2026 Reunion

Inside this issue:

NIAGARA FALLS NEW YORK

SEPT. 20—25

DETAILS

INSIDE

<i>President's Message</i>	2
<i>Secretary-Treasurer Ladies Auxiliary</i>	3
<i>Reunion Registration</i>	5-6
<i>Reunion Tour Details</i>	6
<i>Ship's Store Order Form</i>	7



From the President

Reunion 2026

The 2025 Reunion in Pensacola Beach was a great time for all who attended. Our Memorial Service was held on October 27 at the resort. Some free time followed and that night the Ladies Auxiliary held their dinner followed by the annual auction, which everyone always enjoys.

Due to the government shutdown, on October 28, we went to USS ALABAMA, at Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile. The trip to the museum at NAS Pensacola and to the flight line to see the Blue Angels had to be cancelled due to the government shutdown.

On October 29, the Dolphin Cruise in the Gulf was enjoyed by everyone, especially when the Blues started their daily practice right over our heads. Definitely a highlight for everyone! Early dinner followed at McGuire's Irish Pub, another big favorite of all. Many attendees went back to McGuire's during "free time."

Scholarship 2026

On March 13, Al and Gwen Miller, John and Dorothy Lyons, Jim Lamb, Jim and Margie Work, Jim and Gail Golden, and I went to Jacksonville University NROTC and presented our 2026 Scholarship check of \$5,000 to Midshipman Second Class Ryland Windsor. This marks the 4th year we have been able to do this for a deserving midshipman studying at Jacksonville University.

The 2026 reunion will be in Niagara Falls, NY from September 20 to September 25. The hotel is the Doubletree by Hilton. Look for full details and registration information in this Horizon issue. If you attend, and wish to cross the bridge into Canada, you **must have a valid passport**. Some of the best views of the Falls are from the Canadian side. You still have time to get a passport. Don't delay! I look forward to seeing you in September.

Special thanks to Al & Gwen for their continued work in planning, arranging, and executing our annual reunions. What goes into what they do is not exactly known by all. I for one, seeing what is involved, greatly appreciate their efforts.

Finally, as many of you already know, our Secretary/Treasurer & Chaplain, Tom Whitehead passed away on February 18. Tom served in many capacities in the Association including President, Sec./Treasurer, Chaplain, Reunion Host, Reunion Committee, and Executive Committee. The Association will miss him dearly. He often asked for my input and I asked for his. I will miss him dearly; the Association will miss him dearly. Please keep Terri and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

YISSS, (Yours In Shared Shang Service)

Bob Hayner, President

**Aux. Treasurer/Store Manager**

Last year's reunion was great! It was different but nice having the Store in the Hospitality Room. We took in \$1700, Thanks to all the shoppers. Please continue to let me know what items you would like to be offered. Mail orders are way down and postage is going up.

The auction and 50/50 took in just over \$2,000. Thanks to all who brought items and the bidders who bought them.

Our new officers are: President Rosie McGowan, 1st VPCarolynn Moon, 2nd VP, Susan Barr, Secretary Patty Thiesen, and Debra Clark Treasurer/Store Manager. Dues remain \$5 per year or Lifetime \$50. New members are: Marcy Ericson and Gail Sheiman, with Colleen McGowan and Cynthia Pashal joining as Life Members. Welcome aboard!

Debra Clark

DUES

Please send your \$20 annual dues to
USS SHANGRI-LA Association
516 New Jersey Ave.
Brick, NJ 08724-1414

2025 Reunion ReCap

Greetings Shipmates, Wives, and Friends:

A sincere thank you to all for "adjusting sails" and helping during our 42nd USS SHANGRI-LA Reunion in Pensacola. Once again, we had a very memorable and wonderful time together (except for Kathy Dederich, who took a nosedive in McQuire's parking lot, resulting in sutures, a fractured nose, and a bruised face).

Fortunately, Kathy recovered remarkably well. Go Kathy!

Unfortunately, we were unable to get to the NAS flight line and the National Naval Aviation Museum due to the government shutdown. (Take a few minutes to view the flight line video Bob Hayner posted on the Shang website.) The Dolphin Cruise, with our own Blue Angels flyover, was so exciting. We even saw dolphins!

Visiting USS ALABAMA near Mobile was an unexpected bonus. Another bonus was a stop at a Mission BBQ during the return trip. They are proud supporters of our military and first responders. They play the National Anthem every day at noon in their restaurants. Delicious food! Check out a location near you. We personally thank the many people who helped at registration and the Ready Room. Dorothy Lyons and Colleen McGowen were again at the registration table.

We serviced our own ice this year. We had access to a mammoth ice machine adjacent to the Ready Room. It required many bucket loads of ice and water every day. The "Ice Men" were Jim Barnett, John Lyons, Paul Klote, John McGowen, Connie Check, and Bill Miskowicz. They were busy every day with this task.

We all need to thank our distinguished Marine, Jim Barnett, for recognizing and presenting Bob Ketenheim with the prestigious Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award. The award could not have gone to a more deserving sailor.

Dorothy Lyons, Colleen & Rosie McGowan, Ann Barnett, Carol Manzi, Linda Schmidt, Midge Young, Patty Theisen, Peg Miskowicz, Jan Hague, and Sandy Check helped to set up and continually refresh the Ready Room. As the years go by and our energy levels aren't what they used to be, having all these helping hands is much appreciated.

Lastly, we recognize and thank our president, Bob Hayner, for all his support and direction as we navigate each reunion. We are blessed to have Bob as our webmaster and IT guy.

We welcomed back Bob & Lois Skaretka after some health issues. Tom & Pat Felcyn almost made it from Alaska. Rumor has it that they and Chuck & Ruth Hull will be at the Niagara Falls reunion. Please keep Rich & Vicki Hague in your prayers for recovery, as Vicki suffered a serious stroke two weeks before the reunion. Special greetings to Bill & Ethel Otto. We missed you.

Organizing a reunion is an enormous undertaking, and we enjoy exploring and planning the reunions. Most of all, we appreciate being with all of you when we get together to celebrate and honor our SHANGRI-LA shipmates and friends.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in Niagara Falls, September 20-25, 2026. The Doubletree is located along the Niagara River and has a convenient walkway to the falls. **Bring your passports** as the border is minutes away and has easy access to and from Canada.

God Bless,

Al & Gwen Miller

USS SHANGRI-LA ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

SEPTEMBER 20-25, 2026

NIAGARA FALLS, NY *** 43^d Reunion ****

Listed below are all the registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and the total amount. Send that amount payable to: **USS Shangri-La Association** in the form of a check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before August 20, 2026. (Please remit ASAP). After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you keep a copy of this form.

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Mail to: Al Miller
20 Richards Lane
Bangor, PA 18013

Check# _____ Date Received: _____

ATTN: USS SHANGRI-LA

Al-H-610-588-0422

C-484-894-5121

CUT-OFF DATE is AUGUST 20, 2026

	Price per	# of people	Total
TOURS:			
MON. 9/21 MEMORIAL SERVICE at the Resort -First floor Cascade A Lunch on your own -Free day – Ladies Auxiliary Auction Dinner at 6PM	See below		\$
TUES. 9/22 Buses to Lockport Locks & Erie Canal Cruise, Buffet Lunch @ Canal. Buses to Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park (The USS Sullivan's, the USS Little Rock & the SSN Croaker)	\$115		\$
WED. 9/23 Buses to Niagara Falls, Goat Island, Niagara Falls S.P. Lunch @ Crowne Plaza. Maid of the Mist Boat Excursion in the afternoon.	\$100		\$
THURS. 9/24 Business Meetings In the Morning. Afternoon free time. Farewell Dinner/Bufferet at 6 PM	See below		
Friday 9/25 Farewells & Departures			
SUNDAY 9/20 MEET & GREET - (6PM-9PM) Pizza Party	N/A**		N/A**
MEALS (below)			
MON. 9/21 LADIES AUXILLARY AUCTION DINNER/BUFFET 6PM Southern Buffet	\$53		\$
Southern Buffet Includes House Salad, Smoked beef brisket, Pulled Pork, Coleslaw, Cornbread, Smoked Mac & Cheese, Sweet Potato Fries & Collard Greens, Dinner Rolls, Double Tree Cookies & Brownies, Coffee/Tea			
After Dinner Auctioneer Extraordinaire, Paul Klote			
THURS. 9/24 FAREWELL DINNER/BUFFET 6PM EUROPEAN BUFFET	\$ 53		\$
European Buffet Includes Nicoise Salad, Au gratin Potatoes, Rice Pilaf, Chef's Vegetable medley, Chicken Cordon Blue, Beef Bourgugon Rolls, Double Tree Cookies & Brownies, Coffee/Tea			
MANDATORY PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEE: Includes various reunion and administrative expenses			\$
Total Amount Payable to: USS Shangri-La Association			\$

**NO FEES APPLICABLE

PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WOULD LIKE IT TO APPEAR ON YOUR NAME TAG:

TAG:

FIRST _____ LAST _____ RATE/RANK _____

(OVER)

SPOUSE NAME (IF ATTENDING) _____ GUEST NAMES _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PH. # _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ IS THIS YOUR 1ST or 2ND Reunion? Please circle.

EMERGENCY CONTACT: _____ PH. NUMBER:() _____

Reunion Hotel Information: Doubletree by Hilton Niagara Falls, NY***401 Buffalo Ave., Niagara Falls, NY 14304******Reservations: 1-716-524-3333 Option 1 CODE SLA******Group Rates \$129.00 incl. breakfast buffet*******Group Rates are applicable 3 days pre and post reunion dates. ****

The Lockport Locks & Erie Canal Cruise includes a 2-hr. round-trip cruise on the Lockview VI, an actual stern-paddlewheel operated double deck vessel, which will cruise past five of the original 1800's locks. Three million gallons of water will fill Locks 34 & 35, the only double set on the Erie Canal and raise the boat 50 feet in addition to Passing under Lockport's "Upside Down Bridge," Lockport's "Big Bridge" and through the 'deep rock cut' plus under lift bridges. A **3-entrée Lunch Buffet** including Carved roast beef & turkey and sliced corned beef in addition to garden salad and vegetables will be at the Canalside Dining Room with more than 100 windows overlooking the Canal. Lunch will follow the tour.

Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park is home to the USS Little Rock, USS The Sullivans, the USS Croaker (submarine) and the PTF-17, one of only 20 fast patrol boats from the Nasty-class to be built. It was used as a high-speed reconnaissance and patrol craft in Vietnam. The Waterfront Museum salutes all branches of the US Armed Forces, with special emphasis on veterans from Western NY. *The memorial stone for the USS F.E Evans is here.

Niagara Falls/Goat Island/Niagara Falls State Park is a close and personal view of the Falls. The Park is large and will require friendly walking and handicapped paths for viewing. There are many benches in the area to sit and marvel. This stop is approximately 2 hrs. We encourage those who are adventurous to visit the Cave of the Winds which takes you down an elevator to the falls to Hurricane Deck within the falls. A poncho is provided and the cost is \$14pp. **A buffet lunch at the Crowne Plaza** along the Niagara River will follow.

Maid of the Mist: Step aboard the iconic all-electric Maid of the Mist – the original Niagara Falls boat tour – and turn your trip to Niagara Falls, USA, into an experience you won't soon forget. Ponchos are provided. Your feet WILL get wet.



USS SHANGRI-LA AUXILIARY SHIP'S STORE 2025

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 PHONE _____

TOTAL	PRICE	DESCRIPTION-- CHECK OR CIRCLE SIZE AND/OR COLOR
	\$4	BUMPER STICKER _____ BUMPER MAGNET _____ SHIP SILHOUETTE & NAME
	\$6	DECAL, LOGO, FOR INSIDE WINDOW
	\$6	PATCH, LOGO EMBROIDERED 4"
	\$7	TIE OR LAPEL PIN, SHANGRI-LA LOGO
	\$16	ORNAMENT, WOOD, LOGO
	\$15	TOTE, CANVAS, DOCUMENT, 15 1/2 'X15 1/2
	\$17	TOTE, CANVAS, SIDE POCKET 12" X 12" X 6 1/2" NAVY _____ STONE _____
	\$5	ROCKER PATCH
	\$15	VISOR, CLOTH, EMBROIDERED, VELCRO NAVY _____ WHITE _____
	\$19	BALL CAP, NAVY CV _____ CVA _____ CVS
	\$19	BALL CAP, NAVY, DATE 1944-1971
	\$19	BALL CAP, NAVY, LOW PROFILE
		MENS
	\$18	T-SHIRT W/P, "TOKYO EXPRESS" LIGHT BLUE _____ Black _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ 2XL _____
	\$20	SAME IN 2XL
	\$16	T-SHIRT W/P, NAVY _____ WHITE _____ BLACK _____ RED _____ S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____
	\$18	SAME IN 2XL
	\$18	t-SHIRT, LONG SLEEVE BLACK S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____
	\$20	SAME IN 2XL
	\$29	GOLF SHIRT W/POCKET NAVY _____ WHITE _____ S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____
	\$31	SAME IN 2XL
	\$27	DENIM, LONG SLEEVE, S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____
	\$31	SAME IN 2XL
	\$36	JACKET, LIGHT WEIGHT, NYLON S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____
	\$38	SAME IN 2XL
	\$55	TEAM JACKET W/HOOD, NAVY M _____ L _____ XL _____
	\$57	SAME IN 2XL OR 3XL
		LADIES
	\$15	T-SHIRT, EMBROIDERED PINK _____, BLUE _____, RED _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____
	\$17	SAME IN 2XL
	\$35	JACKET W/HOOD, LIGHT WEIGHT, NAVY S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____
	\$37	SAME IN 2XL
	\$27	DENIM, LONG SLEEVE, S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____
	\$29	SAME IN 2XL

SHIPPING ADD: \$1-15=\$6, \$16-40=\$10, \$41-59=\$15, OVER \$60=\$20

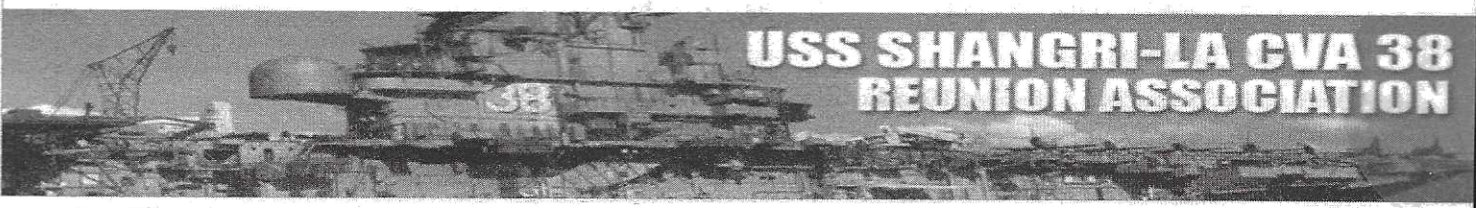
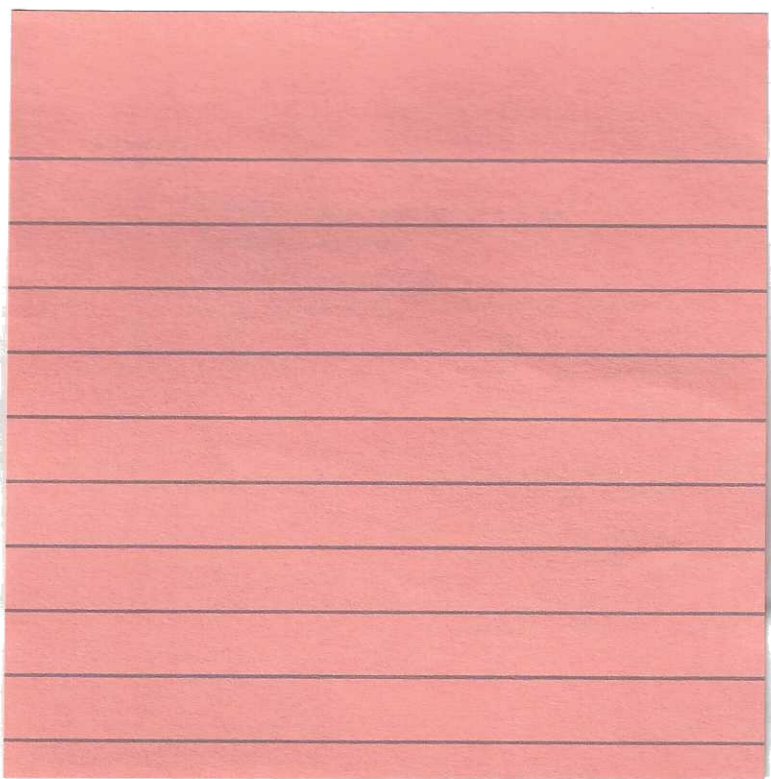
PAYMENT (CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ONLY) TO USS SHANGRI-LA AUXILIARY

SEND TO: DEBRA CLARK, PO BOX 103, CONNEAUTVILLE, PA 16406-0103



USS SHANGRI-LA Reunion Association
516 New Jersey Ave
Brick, NJ 08724-1414

Presorted
Non Profit
US Postage
PAID
Permit 59
Rock Island, IL



**USS SHANGRI-LA CVA 38
REUNION ASSOCIATION**