



USS Noxubee AOG 56 Shipmates Asso. Newsletter

June 2011

Dear Shipmates It is that time of year again and we have been busy making plans for our 2011 USS Noxubee Shipmates Reunion to be held in beautiful downtown Chicago, Illinois.

You will be staying in the heart of the city, directly across from the world famous Merchandise Mart. You can spend days in the mart alone, but we know you would want to see some of the many sights along the lake front. Some of the most popular being:

Willis (formerly Sears) Tower with the new glass floor Skydeck ledge
John Hancock Building with a restaurant on the 95th floor or cocktail lounge on 94th floor
Navy Pier, Buckingham Fountain, Trolley tours of the entire downtown area,
Millennium Park, Grant Park and the Grant Park Band Shell
Our list of museums includes:
Science and Industry, Field Museum, Art Institute, Adler Planetarium and the Shedd Aquarium.
Lakefront dinner cruises or Skyline tours or Architectural cruise on the Chicago River.
Shopping is amazing on the famous Magnificent Mile (Michigan Ave), which would include Water Tower Place, Nike Town, FAO Schwartz and many, many more.
And for you sports fans, the White Sox are in town (playing the Twins)

These are just some of the attractions. We will have more information to follow, but we hope this whets your appetite to make your reservations early.

The final date for making your reservations at the Holiday Inn, Chicago Mart Plaza is **July 21, 2011**. Call 312-836-5000 for reservations. The exceptional room rate is \$120.10 (all taxes are included) with an additional special parking rate of \$10 per night. (Ignore the amount listed on your confirmation of \$34 as this will be discounted) Please remember to mention the USS Noxubee Shipmates Association when making your reservations.

Thanks and we hope to see you all in Chicago. Mikki and Pat Francione

Newly located shipmates

Edward J Dupre ET3 12-01-50 thru 05-14-52
Hugh E Bowman FN 10-31-70 thru 07-71
Gary Uncles 1973-'75

Shipmates Crossed the Quarterdeck

Hubert Westerfield SN 02-26-2010
10-02-50 thru 03-19-1951

Address Changes

Speedy Harster
Jim Harness

E-mail Changes

Bo Driggers
Phil Zimmerman
Tom Hayes

(Addresses and Changes are listed in the Shipmates Directory)

Missing Shipmates The last newsletter sent out to Thomas Dunak 1965-'66 and Clyde Pope 1945-'46 were returned, address unknown. Anyone know their status? The USS Noxubee was named for the Noxubee River. Shipmate Gary Harger 1966-'68 has been in contact with Noxubee County Historical Society, presenting them with a framed picture of the ship. Gary also contacted Adm. Mullin, the last CO. The admiral sent Gary a letter which was also presented to NCHS

New Agent Orange Disability Claims

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is in the process of distributing disability benefits to Vietnam Veterans who qualify for compensation under recently liberalized rules for [Agent Orange](#) exposure. New legislation allows the VA to expand coverage for those suffering from medical conditions recently associated with Agent Orange. The expansion of coverage applies to the following conditions:

Ischemic Heart Disease B-cell(or Hairy-Cell) Leukemia Parkinson's Disease

As a result of this expansion, many retired military members who did not previously qualify for [Combat-Related Special Compensation](#) (CRSC) or [Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay](#) (CRDP) may now be eligible for the monthly disability payment. Those who were previously approved for CRSC or CRDP may now be eligible to receive an increase in their award.

To receive CRSC, you must apply. To do so, please complete a [DD2860](#) Claim for CRSC and mail it, along with all supporting documentation, to your branch of service at the address provided on the application. Supporting documents may include a full copy of the rating decision from the VA, along with any other service records or medical records that support your case.

Once DFAS receives your award letter, we will establish or update your CRSC account.

You do not have to apply for CRDP. After you receive your new rating from the VA, if you meet the eligibility requirements, the VA will notify DFAS and we will automatically calculate your CRDP entitlement.

If your award from the VA is retroactive, DFAS will audit your account. If you are due retroactive pay from DFAS based on your new rating, you will receive a lump sum payment within 60 days from the date we first receive notification of your increase or initial eligibility. If our audit determines that you are entitled to any payment from the VA, we will notify that agency within 60 days from the date we receive notification.

It is important to note that federal law prohibits you from receiving both CRSC and CRDP at the same time. If you are eligible for both CRSC and CRDP, we will begin paying you the greater entitlement and you will be given the opportunity to elect which entitlement you wish to receive each January during the CRDP/CRSC Open Season.