



USS KASKASKIA BLAST

Dedicated to the men who served aboard USS KASKASKIA (AO 27)

Volume 7 No. 1

May 2024

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lrkish1@gmail.com
- Treasurer.... Ben Pfister
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President's Message

Michael "Mike" Valsamy

Ahoy Shipmates and all our Family member's,

Our 34th Reunion is approaching this September and we all hope, we will have a big crowd to attend the excursions planned for this year.

I want to thank Joyce and Don Seymour for the diligent work they did, in putting together "The Buffalo Reunion". I think we all had a wonderful time on all the excursions.

This year we will have our reunion take place in "Central America" in Moline, Illinois. Our shipmate Ben Pfister has put together quite an exciting reunion. Please set aside a few days in September (9/4 to 9/7) to join us for a "Land and Sea Reunion".

I am so excited and looking forward to this road trip and to all the excursions planned, and I am hoping we will all get together and have another "Fabulous Reunion".

I hope everyone will keep Healthy and Safe so we can have many more "Fabulous Reunions", like we had in Buffalo last year.

Thank you everyone.

With all our LOVE.

Peggy and Mike Valsamy



**USS KASKASKIA's 34th REUNION IS SCHEDULED FOR
Moline, Illinois**

4-7 September 2024

See Page 2

USS KASKASKIA Reunion Webpage
<http://www.kaskaskia27reunion.com/>

USS KASKASKIA 2024 Reunion

Ben Pfister will be hosting the 34th annual reunion in the Quad Cities region from September 4 to 8. The Quad Cities region includes Davenport and Bettendorf Iowa, Moline and Rock Island Illinois along the Mississippi River.

We will be staying at the **Wyndham Moline** on John Deere Commons, 1415 River Dr., Moline IL 61265. Room rate is \$134.47 for 2 Queen Beds or \$145.77 for 1 King Bed per night which includes breakfast for two. For hotel reservations call the hotel at (309)764-1000 ext 3 and mention the USS Kaskaskia reunion.

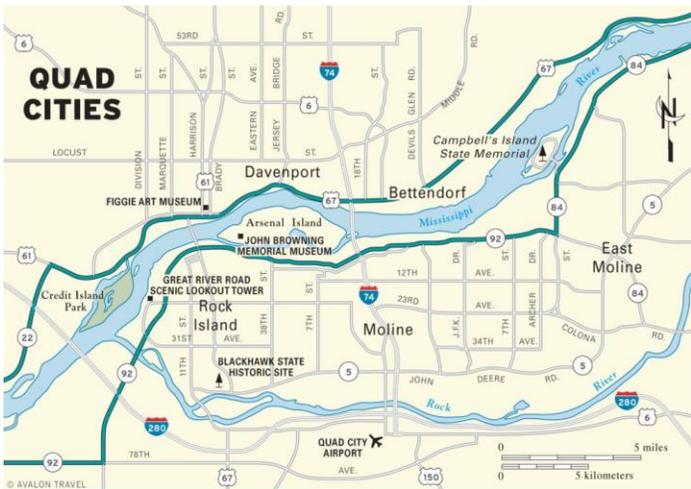
There will be a Meet and Greet in the Hospitality Room on Wednesday 9/4 beginning at 4:00pm Enjoy the drinks, snacks, and conversation.

On Thursday, 9/5, Ben has arranged a tour of the John Deere Works Factory that manufactures heavy equipment. (Company requirements - Shoes with closed toe & heel - No Sandals, shorts, skirts, or dresses). Lunch will be farm-to-table made and served in the private home at the Cinnamon Ridge Farm followed by a farm tour.

On Friday, 9/6, Ben has arranged a tour of the Deere-Wiman House a Victorian gem built in 1872 for Patriarch John Deere, founder of the John Deere Company. That will be followed by lunch aboard the **Celebration Belle** Cruise Line on the Mississippi River. After lunch there will be a tour of the Rock Island Arsenal (RIA). RIA is an active military installation and location of the headquarters of the Army Sustainment Command, and the First Army RIA Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center. Identification of each guest will be required.

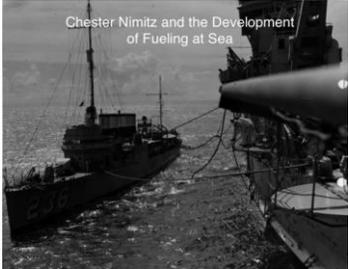
Saturday will be our annual business meeting and banquet. Please select a choice of entrée on the registration form.

You can find a reunion reservation form on page 3. Registration and checks are due to **Ben Pfister by August 1st 2024.**



USS KASKASKIA SEA STORIES

Our Webmaster, Larry Kish, has uploaded several links of interest to Navy Fleet Oiler Crewmembers. The links are available from the KASKASKIA webpage and include Naval History and YouTube material. Larry has also linked scanned copies in both high and low resolution of two of Kas's med cruises.

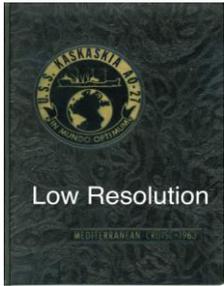


Chester Nimitz and the Development of Fueling at Sea

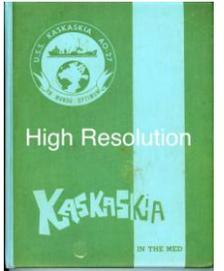


Six Oilers- USS NEOSHO, CIMARRON, PLATE, GUADALUPE, KASKASKIA & SABINE - in early WWII

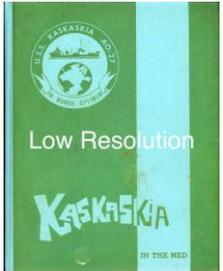
Evolution of UNREP



USS KASKASKIA 1963 MED Cruise



USS KASKASKIA 1966 MED Cruise



Got to our reunion website and check out all of the resources available for viewing or downloading.

[USS Kaskaskia Reunion Home \(kaskaskia27reunion.com\)](http://kaskaskia27reunion.com)

If you have any data to help keep the website updated, please send an email to Larry Kish.

**USS KASKASKIA (AO 27) 34th Reunion
 Rock Island –Moline, Illinois
 September 4th-September 7th 2024
 Reservation Form Due by August 1, 2024**

Attendee Name _____ Guest /Spouse _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Home Phone (____) _____ Cell (____) _____

Hotel Reservations: Wyndham Moline on John Deere Commons, 1415 River Dr. Moline, IL 61265, can be made by calling 309-764-1000 ext. Mention the USS Kaskaskia Reunion. Hotel Cost is your choice of – 2 Queen Beds \$134.47 per night or 1 King Bed Suite \$145.77 per night. Breakfast is included for two per room.

EXCURSION and BANQUET RESERVATIONS 2024

Transportation - Number Guests ____ x \$94.00 per person = \$ _____

Wednesday - 9/4 - Meet and Greet in the Hospitality Room. Registration begins at 4:00. Enjoy the drinks, snacks, and conversation. Cost of the hospitality room this year is \$60.00 per person. Number of Guests _____ x \$60.00 per person = \$ _____

Thursday - 9/5 - Tour of the John Deere Works Factory that manufactures heavy equipment. (Company requirements – Shoes with closed toe & heel-No Sandals, shorts, skirts or dresses). Lunch will be farm-to-table made and served in the private home at the Cinnamon Ridge Dairy Farm followed by a farm tour.
 Number of Guests _____ x \$65.00 per person = \$ _____

Friday - 9/6 - Tour the original Deere-Wiman family home. Buffet Lunch will follow aboard the Celebration Belle Cruise Line. Afternoon tour will be on the Rock Island Arsenal. Identification of each guest will be required.
 Number of Guests _____ x \$55.00 per person = \$ _____

Saturday – 9/7 - Annual business meeting and Banquet at the hotel.
 Number of Guests _____ x \$40.00 per person = \$ _____
 Please pick one item per guest for your entree:
 Glazed Pork Loin ____ Bacon Wrapped Steak Medallions ____ Cashew Crusted Salmon _____

Your Total Cost \$ _____

Please make all checks payable to Ben Pfister - **Registration due by August 1st, 2024**
 Mail to: Ben Pfister Phone: 309-314-7141 (Please identify by name)
 2411 - 45th St. email: ben.joe.pfister@gmail.com
 Rock Island, IL 61204

USS KASKASKIA (AO 27)

2023 Reunion Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2023
Buffalo NY

President Mike Valsamy called the meeting to order. Board members present: Don Seymour, Mike Valsamy, Larry Kish

Ten additional members present: Dennis Butterfield, Bob Crosbie, Don Grout, Rolf Heinzl, Richard Jones, Dave Lutman, Ben Pfister, Jerry Sheets, Jimmy Tabb, and James Washburn.

Pledge and prayer were led by Jimmy Tabb. Names of deceased since last reunion were recognized when read by Mike Valsamy.

Minutes of the last meeting were read by Larry Kish. Motion to approve as read by Bob Crosbie, seconded by Jimmy Tabb. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Ed Scheid is being treated for cancer and was unable to attend the reunion. In his absence the treasurer’s report was given by Don Seymour. Don reported that Ed sent a check to him for \$1523.95 on 20-Mar-2023. Don subsequently cut a check for \$311.84 to cover cost of Blast, and a check for \$155.76 for Kaskaskia Web Hosting. Current balance is \$1871.00 including dues collected and sales of hats and pins. There was some discussion of the apparent discrepancy reported at last year’s reunion, \$3037 or \$3110 and the \$1523.95 check transferred to Don Seymour in March. Bob Crosbie made a motion that Mike Valsamy contact Ed Scheid for an accounting of the discrepancy. Motion was seconded by Dennis Butterfield. Motion carried.

Don Seymour suggested that the Treasurer position be the responsibility of the reunion coordinator. Don motioned that going forward the reunion coordinator should also be Treasurer. Second by Richard Jones. Motion carried.

New Business:

Ben Pfister queried about the number of shipmates on the Blast mailing list and the typical attendance at the reunions. Ben suggested that the 2024 reunion be held in the Quad Cities area, including Rock Island, Moline, and East Moline in Illinois, and Davenport and Bettendorf Iowa. Jimmy Tabb motioned that the 2024 reunion be in Quad Cities area, coordinated by Ben Pfister. Motion seconded by Bob Crosbie. Motion carried.

Larry Kish brought up the cost of maintaining the Kaskaskia reunion web page. The cost of the hosting server and domain server has risen from \$131.28 for 2017, to \$155.76 for 2023, and \$233.98 for 2024. In view of the increasing cost Larry asked if it was time to drop the web site. General feeling was that we should continue to maintain the web site. Richard Jones made the motion that Larry should look for cheaper alternatives. If a cheaper hosting server is not found before the October 1 renewal

date, we should continue at the \$233.98 rate for 2024 with the current hosting server. Motion seconded by Jimmy Tabb. Motion carried.

Jimmy Tabb brought up the need to elect officers for the coming year. He made a motioned that following slate be elected for the coming year:

- President – Mike Valsamy
- Treasurer – Ben Pfister
- Secretary – Larry Kish
- Historian – Mike Valsamy

Motion seconded by Bob Crosbie. Motion carried.

Jimmy Tabb motioned that Don Seymour be vice president. Ben Pfister seconded. Motion carried.

- Traveled the farthest – Dennis Butterfield 1174 miles.
- Traveled the least – Don Seymour 7 miles.
- Oldest – Bob Crosbie 84
- Youngest – Mike Valsamy 76

Motion to adjourn by Bob Crosbie. Second by Jerry Sheets. Motion carried.



Name	Aboard	Depart	Rate/Rank	Deceased
Harry Andersen	64	64		6/16/2022
Larry Bekke	69	69	SK3	5/9/2022
Bill Bowen	65	67	HM1	1/8/2021
Thomas Burton	61	63	EM3	5/19/2023
James L. Flint Jr.	66	68	SN	5/1/2004
Terry Gacloch	63	66	IC3	9/13/2023
Douglas Kinney	52	54	LTJG	6/23/2023
Roy Manewal	62	67	EM1	11/11/2022
Paul Mertes	68	69	3/C	9/13/2023
Norman Ogden	46	47	SN	12/13/2009
Lawrence Rousslange	45	46	SN1	6/4/2023
Bob Sherman	51	55	EM2	3/22/2023
Manford (Mike) Stegen	49	50		10/14/2022
Bobby Tumbleson	67	69	C	7/26/2021
Bill Upton				3/17/2005
Willie B. Vickers	52	52	GM3	12/22/2022
Carl Vieck	49	49	SN	4/29/2021
Richard Wasyln	66	67	MM3	1/2/2023
George Young	44	45	SN	4/6/2023
Jim Zane	52	53	SN	3/26/2023

Dues are Due

Yearly dues of \$10.00 are now due. This token rate helps pay for the printing and mailing of the KASKASKIA BLAST and also for the yearly costs of maintaining the website. As you know, the fees for the website have continued to increase each year. However, the board believes the cost is justified since it contains so much data and history of our ship.

*Please send your check for \$10.00 to the Treasurer BEN PFISTER.
Make check payable to BEN PFISTER
2411- 45th Street
Rock Island, IL 61204*

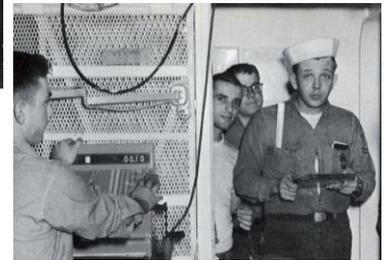


Buffalo, New York 2023 Reunion

From our Past



Let there be light!



All this for 10 cents?



From the Editor's Desk

The 2024 KASKASKIA Reunion offers us another chance to join with fellow shipmates and share memories. This year we are meeting mid-continent to see a new part of our country and to give you mid-westerners a good reason to join in the activities that Ben Pfister has developed for us in the Quad Cities area.

Please read the itinerary and complete the registration form as soon as possible. Don't forget to register at the hotel for the nights you need. Also, let any of your KASKASKIA friends know you are going and try to talk them into joining with us. Let's have a good turnout this year!

We have a supply of hats, buttons, and souvenirs of past conventions available for purchase. Look at the website for what is available, prices and ordering details.



The head was too crowded so I came up here.

KASKASKIA's Ship's Store

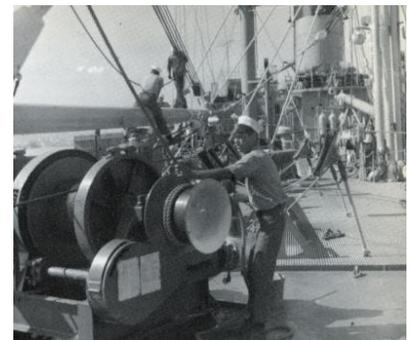


USS KASKASKIA AO27 Ballcap



USS KASKASKIA AO27 pin

Someday we will have high speed electric winches.



US Navy's newest oiler USNS HARVEY MILK in Panama Canal heading for new homeport at Norfolk VA April 2024



I just love holding personnel inspections!

Don't you miss the memories? Come and join us at the reunion this year! Share your stories.



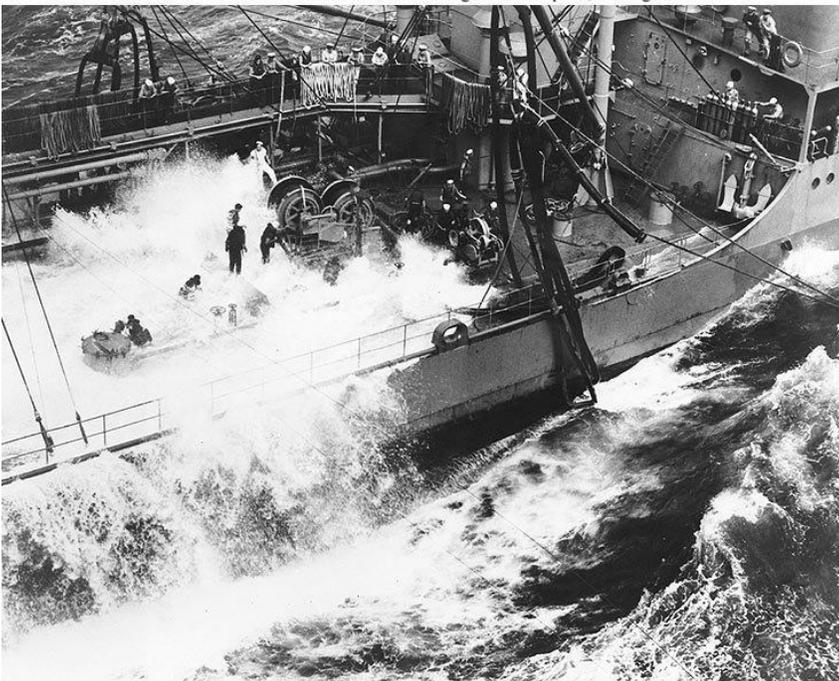
Richard D. Jones
137 Putnam Ave
Ormond Beach FL 32174

To:

Reunion Registration Information Enclosed – This Year--Join in--Be There!

MAX OP TEMPO

Photo # 80-G-14166 USS Kaskaskia refueling USS Enterprise, 18 August 1942



USS KASKASKIA (AO 27) takes green water over her deck, while refueling USS ENTERPRISE (CV 6) in the Solomon Islands area, 18 August 1942. Note refueling hose in the right center, ready to be sent over to the carrier. During this period, rig winches and tank controls were on the 'jungle' deck. Later a cargo deck was added and winches were moved up to that deck.

US National Archives photo # 80-G-14166, a US Navy photo now in the collections of the US National Archives.