



OS & AS Newsletter



SAVE THE DATES!

11TH OS & AS REUNION

25-29 September 2022

DENVER, CO

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Denver Tech Center Doubletree,
7801 E Orchard Rd, Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Check the website & FB periodically as updates will be added



OS&AS ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER

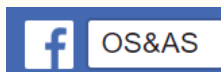
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OS & AS Newsletter

Plan Of The Week

Rocky Mountain Colorado 2022 OS&AS Reunion

Sunday, September 25:

Denver Tech Center Doubletree
Arrive and Registration
Hospitality Suite
Reception with heavy pupus

Monday, September 26:

Bus tour to Georgetown (historic mining town dating from 1859)
Lunch on your own in Idaho Springs and shopping in town
Narrow gauge Railroad trip up to Silver Plume
Dinner on your own

Tuesday, September 27:

Bus tour to Colorado Springs
US Air Force Grounds and Visitor Center with lunch at the Falcon (Officer's) Club
Garden of the Gods
Dinner on your own

Wednesday, September 28:

Business breakfast and business/director's meetings
Tour Wings Over the Rockies Air and Space Museum at Lowry with Optional Box Lunch
Command Brief and Tour of new JRIC Denver at Buckley Space Force Base
Reception and Reunion Banquet featuring **Stephen Coonts** as our Guest Speaker

Thursday, September 29:

Depart



OS & AS Newsletter

A message from your President:

As we get closer to our September reunion in the Mile High City, which includes excursions to Georgetown and Colorado Springs via gorgeous Rocky Mountain vistas, I'd like to suggest a departure from previous reunion practices...register early! Doing so greatly facilitates the planning process for Tim Kathka and Team Denver (not to mention lowering their blood pressure). Once registered, your name (including your spouse's) is posted on the OS&AS website list of confirmed attendees, motivating your shipmates to join you in Denver and help recall sea stories. Also, check out Vice-President Gary Powers' many new additions to our well managed website. I also understand a healthy number of RIA 5 alumni from the Denver area will be attending the Wednesday activities, including evening banquet to reconnect and hear best-selling author Stephen Coonts.

OS&AS now has a Zoom video conferencing license that's available for meetings, reunion planning and other options. Our secretary, Mike Barnes, is the account administrator, so if you have a need, contact Mike to set up a conference.

What a great organization...no dues! But we need your donations...even more so as we sustain our charitable contribution footprint to assist veterans at reunion locations. Most of us can use a gentle reminder. You can send a check to treasurer Rick Martinez payable to OS&AS, or include a donation with your reunion registration. This year a digital option to register (Zelle®) will be available.

Sadly, for all of us, this is one of Suzanne Brannon's last, superb newsletters. She will serve as the editor until the September Reunion. Thank you, Suzanne, for your hard work, dedication and professionalism. Well done! Suzanne has also devoted many hours helping with the reunion. The critical Newsletter Editor billet is now open and Suzanne has obliged to assist with a turnover.

Looking forward to our 11th reunion,

Bill Anderson



OS & AS Newsletter

A message from your Chairman:

Happy Spring to all. We are enjoying some refreshing spring weather here in Texas after several cold spells. We have been through about six seasonal changes here in the past three months. The bluebonnets, trees and other flowers are blooming and trees are growing green leaves which remind me of the reunion in Fredericksburg last year.

Jan and I were fortunate to spend a week at a resort near Playa del Carmen near Cancun and another week at a new Margaritaville resort near Punta Cana, Dominican Republic since January. We are happy to be home and involved with family and friends, especially softball, track and other sports activities. As we meet people from around the world I am constantly proud to tell them that I am retired from the Navy, which takes a higher role over my successful medical sales business. Of course I am always happy to brag that Jan is a retired BS RN.

As we look forward to our next reunion in Denver in September it reminded me of a trip Jan and I made to visit RIA 5 in September 1996 a month prior to relieving Tim Kathka as RIAC there. We arrived in Denver on a Friday afternoon, enjoyed beautiful Colorado sunshine and weather. When we woke up Saturday morning to visit the JRIC and personnel the ground was covered with beautiful snow and it was still snowing. Welcome to Colorado new RIAC. After only a couple of months on duty as RIAC 5 I arrived two days prior to drill weekend to accompany Ken Smith, my RIPO, for a two hour drive through falling snow to visit the family and grave of a fallen sailor who lived near Greeley CO.

Thank you to Tim Kathka and reunion planning crew for your efficient planning for another exciting reunion and to Mike Halbig and his crew for efforts in planning for the follow up reunion in Annapolis MD.

Sustainability and succession are topics that are very important for OS&AS. Bill Anderson, Rick Martinez, Bill Craig and I have had a few discussions to plan for appropriate and smooth future changes to ensure a positive future of our organization. We all agree that we need input from our members to move forward. We ask you to please send any suggestions and recommendations to any or all of us. Don't be concerned if your comments may be out of the ordinary. Bill Anderson: andersonwd3@gmail.com Rick Martinez: rmartinez@outlook.com Bill Craig: capnbilly@aol.com, Pat Merrill: patmerrill44@gmail.com.

God Bless America!!

Pat Merrill



OS & AS Newsletter

A message from your Rocky Mountain Colorado 2022 OS&AS Reunion Chairman:

A team of Old Salts and Assorted Spies is preparing to welcome friends and comrades to the Rocky Mountain Colorado 2022 OS&AS Reunion, September 25-29. More than a gathering in Denver– the Queen City of the Plains– the reunion will enjoy fall's glittering aspen with a tour into the Colorado mountains, while also visiting the Air Force Academy and Garden of the Gods park near Pikes Peak.

Headlining our banquet is best-selling author, Mr. Stephen Coonts, as our guest speaker. Locals may recall that CDR Coonts (USNR Retired) drilled at the Denver Federal Center and at Buckley. There will be time during the banquet schedule for Mr. Coonts to autograph books – so if you have one you would like autographed, bring it!

The reunion planning committee continues its work to make the 2022 reunion one to remember. Following the Fredericksburg's model of providing sustenance in the hospitality room during the President's Reception, the committee will provide heavy pupus to allow the members to enjoy each other's company and start retelling old sea stories without having to venture out to the local restaurants after a day of travel. The venue is the DoubleTree by Hilton at the Denver Tech Center, where the patio of our hospitality room sits beneath the soaring atrium of the hotel. Paul & Judy Pappenheim have graciously agreed to host the hospitality room.

There is more to do in Colorado than the committee can pack into 3 days. The DoubleTree will give reunion attendees the group rate 3 days before and after the scheduled reunion. That offers you a great opportunity to explore more of Colorado.

If you are a baseball fan, arriving a day early for the OS&AS 2022 Reunion will provide an opportunity to see the Colorado Rockies in their last home game of the season. On Sunday, September 25, the Rockies will host the San Diego Padres. While not a perennial play-off team, it is still Spring, and baseball hopes in Colorado are alive and well. Visit Coors Field in lower downtown Denver with its surrounding bars and restaurants. Advance ticket purchase is advised!

In keeping with the spirit of the old west, our committee is planning to pioneer an optional on-line registration and payment system, via Zelle through your personal bank to ours. Look for more details in the upcoming registration communication.

Please check the OS&AS Reunion page at os-as.com periodically for updates.

Tim Kathka



OS & AS Newsletter

TREASURER'S REPORT March 31, 2022 OS&AS Operating Fund:

2020 Financial Activity

Beginning Balance 1-1-2020		\$11,690.34
Donations	\$1,869.00	
2022 Reunion Advance	(\$2,500.00)	
Ending Balance 12-31-2020		\$11,059.34

2021 Financial Activity

Beginning Balance 1-1-2021		\$11,059.34
Donations	\$1,100.00	
2021 Reunion Reimbursement	\$1,993.03	
2021 Reunion Donations	\$1,413.00	
Merchandise Sales	\$20.00	
Wounded Warriors At Nebo	(\$2,500.00)	
Admiral Nimitz Foundation	(\$225.00)	
Ending Balance 12-31-2021		\$12,860.37

2022 Financial Activity

Beginning Balance 1-1-2022		\$12,860.37
Donations	\$430.00	
2022 Reunion Advance	(\$2,100.00)	
Ending Balance 3-31-2022		\$11,190.37

Treasurer's Note: Above report covers three years in order to reflect the 2022 Reunion Advances.



Q4 2021 & Q1 2022 Contributors



- ↓ Gary Powers
- ↓ Henry & Diana Domeracki
- ↓ Dale & Suzanne Wiley
- ↓ John & Katie Geist
- ↓ Charles & Beth Morrison
- ↓ Ralph & Nina Ross
- ↓ George Nelson
- ↓ Drew Jones
- ↓ William & Jean Mitchell
- ↓ Jeff & Stephanie Johnson
- ↓ Albert Baxter
- ↓ Rick & Bea Martinez
- ↓ Dennis Selig
- ↓ Bill & Bonnie Anderson
- ↓ Paul Pappenheim
- ↓ Normand & Peggy Lussier



OS & AS Newsletter

Abaft

Bird Warfare

Navy's First Aircraft Carrier Had a Dedicated 'Pigeoneer'. Military working dogs get plenty of well-deserved credit for their vital role in sniffing out bombs and patrolling the bases of the U.S. armed forces. But they are far from the only animal to have saved the lives of service members over the years. In fact, when America's first aircraft carrier, the USS Langley, was commissioned exactly 100 years ago on 19 MAR, some of its most important passengers were not pilots, navigators, or other sailors, but pigeons.

"On the stern, an elaborate pigeon house was built with food storage, nesting, training, and trapping areas" which was later to be rebuilt into the executive officer's quarters, wrote Rear Adm. Jackson Tate, who served on the Langley early in his career, in 1978 for the naval magazine Proceedings. "The radios of those days were very rudimentary, and most cross-country flights carried crates of homing pigeons in case of emergency," he said.



Carrier pigeons release from a Langley seaplane, Navy guidance on proper method of holding a pigeon in the hand, and Langley pigeon loft

Read the full article on page 82:

[http://thearmysecurityagency.com/uploads/3/4/8/0/34809791/bulletin_220401_pdf_edition .pdf](http://thearmysecurityagency.com/uploads/3/4/8/0/34809791/bulletin_220401_pdf_edition.pdf)



OS & AS Newsletter

OSINT



The transport dock ship Green Bay, the Military Sealift Command fleet replenishment oiler USNS Walter S. Diehl and the amphibious dock landing ship Ashland conduct a replenishment-at-sea with MH-60S Seahawk helicopters on Jan. 30, 2019, in the Philippine Sea. (MC1 Daniel Barker/U.S. Navy)

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Navy released the names of the 24 ships it hopes to decommission in fiscal 2023, eight of which have reached the end of their planned service life and 16 of which would be retired early to save money on ships that the service views as not worth their rising costs.

The Navy would like to decommission four Ticonderoga-class cruisers at the end of their 35-year service; two Los Angeles-class attack submarines at the end of their 33-year service lives; and two Kaiser-class oilers at the end of their 35-year service lives.

Of the 16 ships the Navy hopes to decommission early, nine are Freedom-variant littoral combat ships. All of them will need their combining gears replaced, as the Navy discovered a class wide defect in late 2020. Lockheed Martin and subcontractor RENK developed a replacement combining gear system, which the Navy approved in November. However, the Navy will bear some amount of the cost of the replacement effort.

The Navy announced March 28 that it would cancel the anti-submarine warfare mission package for the LCSs, meaning it would need fewer hulls in the inventory. Decommissioning nine LCSs — every single Freedom-variant hull that has already been commissioned into service — would avoid the cost of replacing combining gears and achieve a smaller fleet responsible for two instead of three mission areas:

Read the full Article: <https://www.defensenews.com/naval/2022/04/04/us-navy-reveals-ships-facing-potential-decommissioning-next-year/>



OS & AS Newsletter

Scallywag SITREP



Navy Deserter Sentenced To 25 Months In Prison For Identity Theft

GREENEVILLE, Tenn.— On March 21, 2022, Jerry Leon Blankenship, 65, currently of Newport, Tennessee, was sentenced to 25 months in prison by the Honorable J. Ronnie Greer, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee at Greenville.

As part of the plea agreement filed with the court, Blankenship agreed to plead guilty to an indictment charging him with one count of fraud involving a Social Security number, in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 408(a)(7)(B), and one count of aggravated identity theft, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1028A. Following his release from prison, Blankenship will be on supervised release for three years.

According to filed court documents, in 1976, Blankenship enlisted in the United States Navy. The following year, after he completed basic training, he deserted, with a goal of avoiding future military service. Blankenship then assumed the name and identity of another individual. By doing so, Blankenship established a new life under the stolen name in Newport, Tennessee. According to court records, Blankenship had “been dishonest about his name with almost everyone, including his girlfriend of thirty years” and the mother of his three children. Since 2005, Blankenship had obtained three fraudulent Tennessee driver’s licenses in the victim’s name. Blankenship also used the victim’s name in a business that he and his girlfriend ran in Newport, Tennessee. Authorities discovered Blankenship’s true identity after he obtained a COVID-19

Read the full Article: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edtn/pr/navy-deserter-sentenced-25-months-prison-identity-theft>



OS & AS Newsletter

Scallywag SITREP



Wife of Navy nuclear engineer pleads guilty in submarine spy case

A former private school teacher will serve up to three years in prison after pleading guilty Friday to helping her husband in what both believed was a plot to sell closely guarded American secrets to a foreign power.

The plea by Diana Toebbe, 46, comes after her husband admitted guilt on Monday, Valentine's Day, and implicated her in his crimes. Both are being held in a jail in West Virginia, where they were arrested in October.

The Justice Department said Diana Toebbe, who has a Ph.D. in anthropology, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to communicate restricted data related to nuclear designs, which carries a maximum statutory penalty of up to life in prison.

Under the terms of her deal, she will serve a sentence of not more than 36 months, the Justice Department said. A federal judge will decide the exact sentence after a pre-sentence investigation and hearing.

Her husband, Jonathan Toebbe, 43, is a former Navy nuclear engineer who was accused of trying to pass information about designs for nuclear-powered submarines to an undercover FBI agent posing as a representative of a foreign government. Prosecutors say Toebbe hid memory cards containing the sensitive information inside peanut butter sandwiches, Band-aid wrappers and chewing gum packages.

At a hearing Monday in a West Virginia courtroom, Jonathan Toebbe pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to communicate restricted data. The plea agreement calls for a possible sentence of 12 ½ to 17 ½ years in prison. Prosecutors said in court filings that the scheme began in April 2020 when Jonathan Toebbe, who worked on the Navy's nuc

Read the full Article: <https://www.nbcnews.com/investigations/wife-navy-nuclear-engineer-pleads-guilty-submarine-spy-case-rcna16850>



OS & AS Newsletter

Final Orders



CDR Louie Michael May, USNR (Ret.)
April 1, 1942 - December 2, 2021

L. Michael May of Huntsville passed away peacefully Dec. 2 at Huntsville Hospital after a prolonged illness. He was 79 years old. During his life Mike was a soldier, a sailor, a professional musician, an artist, a darts champion, a fisherman and a competitive Bar B Que cook. He was considered a Renaissance man by those who knew him. As good as he was at all of those hobbies and activities, he was an even better husband, father, brother and grandfather.

A lifelong patriot, Mike volunteered for military service in the early days of the Vietnam war. He deployed with the 1st Aviation Brigade as a helicopter crewman and fought in four different campaigns, earning the rank of Staff Sergeant. Mike was awarded the Air Medal with Combat Valor device, the Army Commendation Medal with Combat Valor device, and the Vietnam Gallantry Cross among several other decorations.

Following the war, Mike was recruited into an intelligence role with the US Naval Reserve, all while earning his BS from the University of North Alabama, as well as a master's degree from Troy State. The Navy commissioned Mike as an officer, and he continued intelligence work during the Cold War, rising to the rank of Commander before retiring from the Navy in 1992. In civilian life, Mike was in law enforcement, serving as the district supervisor and head of North Alabama parole and probation offices. He retired from law enforcement in 1998.

The Full Obituary: <https://www.laughlinservice.com/obituaries/CDR-Louie-Michael-May-USNR-Ret?obId=23297319>



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Final Orders



LCDR Gary Kimber, USNR (Ret.)

Feb 2, 1952 - Dec 26, 2021

We rejoice as our beloved Gary Lee Kimber, 69, peacefully went home to be with the Lord, Sunday, December 26, 2021. His devoted wife, Pamela J. Kimber was by his side in their blessed home. Born in Longview, Washington, he was the son of the late Gilbert B. and Evelyn E. Kimber. He was also predeceased by his precious son, Gabriel L. Kimber; his loving in-laws, Larkin and Jane Jones. Gary was retired from the U.S. Navy Reserves. Including his wife, Gary's legacy continues

with his children, Karen K. Andriola and husband Joel, Daniel-Abram B. Kimber, Christopher S. Kimber and wife Brittany, Micah G. Kimber and wife Emma; a daughter-in-law Priscilla Kimber; grandchildren, Clara, Molly, Isabella, Gabriella, Lilleigh, Logan, Keith, Abigail; siblings, Dean Kimber, Raymond Kimber and Karen Kimber, as well as beloved aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, extended family, brothers and sisters in Christ. Gary's life will be celebrated 11:00 a.m., Thursday, January 13, 2022 at Oman Funeral Home & Crematory, Chesapeake. Published by The Virginian-Pilot on Dec. 28, 2021.

The Full Obituary: <https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/23490614/gary-lee-kimber>



OS & AS Newsletter

Final Orders



CAPT John Glover Crawford, Jr., USN (Retired)

January 23, 1946 - November 21, 2021

John Glover Crawford, Jr., 75, of Dumfries, Virginia, passed away on November 21, 2021, at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

He was commissioned into the United States Navy through Aviation Officer Candidate School at Pensacola, Florida, in March 1968.

His initial assignment was on the staff of Commander Seventh Fleet, aboard the USS *Providence* and the USS *Oklahoma City*, homeported in Yokosuka, Japan.

During his storied career in the U.S. Navy, he served with honor at the Fleet Intelligence Center Europe and Atlantic; on the USS *Ranger*; at Carrier Air Wing 20 at NAS Cecil Field in Jacksonville, Florida; as the Reserve Intelligence Program Officer for the Southern California, Arizona and Nevada areas; and at the Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center in Dam Neck, Virginia.

In 1990, he was assigned to London, England as the Executive Officer for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service Europe with additional duty as the Foreign Counterintelligence Officer for the Commander in Chief U.S. Naval Forces Europe. In 1994, he was assigned to the Office of Naval Intelligence in Suitland, Maryland as the national program sponsor for the Naval Reserve Intelligence Program and he headed the Navy's personnel and training effort with the test and evaluation of the Predator UAV program. He was then assigned to the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C., directing a joint Reserve program.

He honorably retired from the U.S. Navy in April 1998, at the rank of Captain and worked for several years as a civilian for the Defense Intelligence Agency. John received numerous awards and medals during his distinguished service in the military, including the Legion of Merit.

The Full Obituary: [https://navintpro.org/taps/2021/12/08/capt-john-glover-crawford,-jr,-usn-\(retired\),-75,-of-dumfries,-virginia/](https://navintpro.org/taps/2021/12/08/capt-john-glover-crawford,-jr,-usn-(retired),-75,-of-dumfries,-virginia/)



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Final Orders



CDR Willie Ross Ashby III, USN (Retired)

February 3, 1953 - April 9, 2022

Willie Ross Ashby III, of Sachse, Texas, aged 69 passed away on Saturday, April 9, 2022, he was diagnosed with vascular dementia due to a stroke several years ago.

Ross Ashby was a retired Commander in the US Navy. He served proudly in the US Navy for 37 years and his last job was at AT&T. He was a man of many trades and skills, he enjoyed several activities like photography, running, swimming, skiing, cycling, building, BBQ, flying and scuba diving.

He is survived by his wife of 28 years, Patricia Ashby, daughter Ember Leigh Ashby and her husband, Leandro Minarelli, son Willie Ross Ashby IV and his wife, Anna Ashby, and son Victor Andres Monroy, grandkids Emerson Carden, Emilia Minarelli, Bryana Ashby, Nolan Ashby, and Bridget Ashby, his mother Naomi Ruth Gunnell, sister Martha Ruth Ashby and brother Richard Clyde Ashby.

He was preceded in death by his father, Willie Ross Ashby II, and grandparents Willie Ross Ashby I, Thelma Townshend Ashby, Ellis Garland Gunnell, and Clyde Gunnell.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to the Alzheimer's Association in the memory of Ross Ashby. This cause has touched our hearts. www.alz.org

Military burial will be held Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 11:15 a.m. at DFW National Cemetery located at 2000 Mountain Creek Pkwy, Dallas, TX 75211.

The Full Obituary: <https://www.tributes.com/obituary/show/Willie-Ross-Ashby-108541037>



OS & AS Newsletter



MAIL ADDRESS AND INFORMATION UPDATE FORM

New Member

First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____

Home Address: _____ () Check if preferred mailing address

City, State, Zip: _____

Spouse's First Name: _____ Email: _____

Bus Address _____ () Check if preferred mailing address Fax: () _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: Home () _____ Business () _____

RIAN/ERIC of Retirement: _____ Year: _____ Rank/Rate: _____

I would like to donate \$ _____ to the Operating Fund for the Association for Old Salts & Assorted Spies.

A yearly donation of \$25.00 is suggested for the Operating Fund. More or less is appreciated, too.

Make checks payable to OS&AS and send to: *Richard P. Martinez*
248 Palomino Court
The Woodlands, Texas 77382-1812

The information requested on this form is used to keep the OS&AS mailing directory correct. Please fill in the information on the updating form when submitting a change of address, adding other information or making a donation to the Operating Fund.

Updated information can be emailed to osasnews@os-as.com

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