

## BUCCANEER



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## 2020 WINNER OF THE ETHEL WALKER SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



Jillian Payne is the winner of this year's scholarship award and is the granddaughter of Jim Brooker.

Jillian plans to study Graphic Design and possibly Advertising at the University of Florida beginning this fall. Following graduation she is considering graduate school to give herself the additional edge in the business field.

Our association wishes you the very best in all of your future endeavors. GOD BLESS!

### **NOTES FROM THE EDITOR**

Due to the reunion cancellation, we are publishing this issue of the *Buccaneer* looking forward to our 2021 reunion in San Diego since there will be no reunion events to report as in other years.

Also due to the 2020 reunion cancellation, the Class of 2020 Directors have agreed to serve another term until 2021 and so forth for the other classes.

We constantly strive to minimize the size of issues to keep our mailing and printing expenses to a minimum. We use a tight format leaving no voids on pages to eliminate wasted space.

We suggest that all members who use computers receive their *Buccaneer* at our website. This way you will receive your copy sooner and be able to print it in color. In addition, significant expense to the Association is saved by not having to print and mail a paper copy.

### **DUES WERE DUE IN JANUARY**

MAIL TO: Eugene Schmidt 3823 Wyoming Ave SW, Wyoming, MI 49519

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### **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

Chairman **Bruce Sims** Vice Chairman Berlyn Ware Secretary **Don Szulist Recording Secretary Butch Godlewski** Treasurer **Bob Peters** Asst. Treasurer **Eugene Schmidt** Chaplain **Bob Nause** Historian **Richard Scales** Ship's Storekeeper Tom Ferelli **Buccaneer Editor/Publisher Chuck Fiedler Reunion Coordinator** Dan Genet Ed Mroziniski Master at Arms

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Class of 2021** 

Tom McNally Richard Scales Ryan Harrison

**Class of 2022** 

Tom Ferelli Scott Packer Ron Bowen

Class of 2023

Tom Connell Bill McCaffrey Tony Medina

#### RECENT FORMER CHAIRMEN

Joe DuErmit / Norm Thompson / Bob Zeller Jr.
Bob Walker / Frank O'Conner / Dan Genet
Bill Pihl / Bob Flynn / Gordon Kreiner
FREQUENT CONTACTS

Bruce Sims - Chairman, <u>cva-9@bellsouth.net</u> 678-572-4618

Berlyn Ware - Vice Chairman, <u>berlynware08@aol.com</u> 574-259-4897

Bob Nause - Chaplain, <u>bbbobn@ptd.net</u> 570-788-3157

Donald Szulist - Secretary, <u>szulistd@gmail.com</u> 619-708-8836

Bob Peters - Treasurer, <u>rspeters@wideopenwest.com</u> 248-548-6452

Eugene Schmidt—Asst. Treasurer,

schmidt.eugenej@att.net

616-534-7170

Tom Ferelli - Storekeeper, <u>agcret@cox.net</u> 602-882-0375

Chuck Fiedler - Editor/Publisher,

ussessexbuced@gmail.com

757-971-0480

#### **BUCCANEER DEADLINE DATES**

February 15 for the spring issue
May 15 for the summer (pre-reunion) issue
August 15 for the fall issue

### FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAIRMAN

### **Ahoy Shipmates!**

I'm sure you have heard someone say: "I have good news and I have bad news." Well, the bad news is the COVID virus that has devastated our country and has also done a number on our reunion for this year. However, don't despair, we do have good news.

Berlyn Ware and others have worked hard over the years to put together a joint reunion. It now seems to have become a reality. We are in the process of putting together a joint reunion for the first time with the USS Hornet in San Diego for 2021.

Our reunion coordinator for 2021will be Tom Ferelli, and he is now in the process of working with the Hornet in putting it all together. Tom will have more on that later.

Since we will not be having our normal business meetings this year, we have asked our board members and the treasurer, who are up for election, to extend their service for another year. We look forward to getting back to Essex business next year in San Diego and resuming our meetings as usual.

Although our association, along with others, is dwindling in membership, we still have some who join. The old carrier fleet is gone now and many of us are too. The rest of us are getting old but hopefully the newer LHD sailors will be picking up the slack and keeping our Association alive and around for many years to come.

Smooth Sailing and Stay Safe,

H. Bruce Sims, Chairman

### CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

The Easter Holidays could not be celebrated in our traditional ways. Our dear Lord certainly arranged an unusual and unexpected way for us to celebrate our Lenten season as well as Holy Week and Easter. I hope all of our families had a nice Easter holiday.

The most important part of our lives is our concern for our family's health and wellbeing. We need to pray for a vaccine to combat the COVID-19 virus. Please pray for our shipmates' family members who are health care workers. They put themselves and their families at risk every time they go to work. Our members and their families need to protect themselves in a reasonable way to reduce the chance of being exposed to the virus.

Our veterans who do not have access to VA health care should apply to a VA eligibility person to find out what they may be entitled to. You will need your DD 214. It is worth the time to find out what is available to you. By the way, there is a form called "The Cannot Work Form" do not miss out on benefits that you may have earned!

God bless you, stay well and safe.

### Prayer for our troops

We ask you Lord, to bless the members of our armed forces. Give them courage, hope, and strength. May they ever experience your firm support, gentle love, and compassionate healing. Be their power and protector, leading them from darkness to light. To you be all glory, honor, and praise now and forever.

God bless our troops and their families.

God bless America and God bless you.

**Bob Nause** 

Chaplain

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### USS ESSEX CV/CVA/CVS-9/LHD-2 INC.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT Six Month, January 1, thru June 30, 2020

<u>Assets</u>			Income	
Balances January 1,	, 2020			
Checking		\$26,094.94	Auction	
HI Yield		\$22,949.17	Donations Gen Fund	\$1,492.00
CD		\$0.00	Donations Scholarship	\$225.00
Prepaid Expenses		\$0.00	Hospitality Room	
Beginning Ca	ish Balance	\$49,044.11	Income on Investments	\$2.29
			Life Memberships	
Income		\$7,158.85	Miscellaneous	
Less Expenses		\$3,629.30	Membership Dues	\$4,237.98
	Balance	\$52,573.66	New Memberships	\$273.25
			Reunion Income	
			Ship's Store Sales	\$928.33
			Tours	
			Total Income	\$7,158.85
			_	
			<u>Expenses</u>	
			Accounting Fees	
			Advertising / Promotion	
			Bank Charges	
			Buccaneer Printing/Expense	\$166.54
			General Printing Expense	,
			Computer Eqpt & Software	
			Donations	
			Legal Fees	
			Miscellaneous	\$640.00
			Office Supplies & Eqpt	•
			Postage / Freight	\$205.75
			Refunds	
			Repairs/Serv Contracts	\$190.08
			Reunion - General Exp	\$65.00
			Reunion - Assn Exp	
			Scholorship fund Award	\$1,025.00
			Ship's Store Merchandise	\$1,190.38
			Ship's Store Expenses	\$146.55
			p 0 01010p011000	
			Total Expen	ses \$3,629.30
			I otal Expoli	40,020.00
Balance June 30, 20	020			

Checking \$29,622.20 Investment \$22,951.46 (\$375.00)Prepaid Scholorship

\$52,573.66

Total Income (Loss) \$3,529.55

Prepared by Eugene Schmidt, Assistant Treasurer

Eugene Schmier

### DONATIONS FOR MEMORIAL AND HONOR FUND Report for JULY 2020 BUCCANEER

Memorialized	Honored	Donor	Date Rcd
Stanley Pendergrass		Bruce Reeve	1/14/2020
Larry Tuttle		Wenonah Tuttle	5/11/2020
	Joseph DuErmit	Shirley DuErmit	6/1/2020
Bob (Judge) Miller		Norm and Carolyn Thompson	6/20/2020
Bob Walker		Norm and Carolyn Thompson	6/20/2020
Joe DuErmit		Norm and Carolyn Thompson	6/20/2020
Darwin Buus		Norm and Carolyn Thompson	6/20/2020
Howard Hangar		Norm and Carolyn Thompson	6/20/2020
Bob Flynn		Norm and Carolyn Thompson	6/20/2020
Oren Ralph		Norm and Carolyn Thompson	6/20/2020
Paul Williams		Norm and Carolyn Thompson	6/20/2020

### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR ETHEL WALKER SCHOLARSHIP FUND Report for July 2020 BUCCANEER

DONOR	CONTRIBUTION	DATE RCD
Ethel Walker	\$100.00	11/15/2019
Ronald Meacham	\$25.00	1/30/2020
Gene & Kathy Fickas	\$100.00	3/2/2020
Eugene Schmidt	\$100.00	4/17/2020

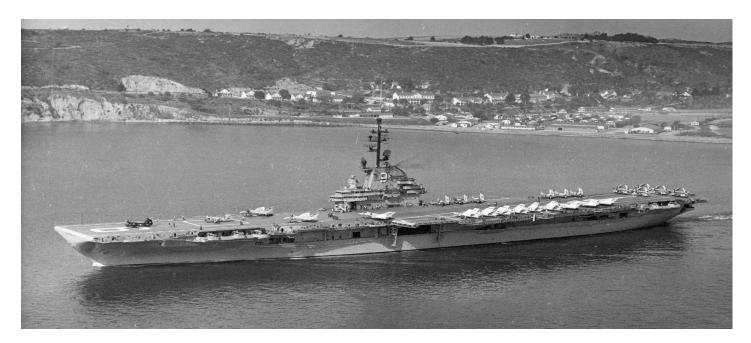
### NEW MEMBERS Report for JULY 2020 BUCCANEER

Name	Note	DIV/S	ABOARD	Joined
Thomas Valentukonis		S-4	3/62-3/64	12/31/2019
Gary Rickert	ETR2	EO	1964-1967	1/14/2020
Steven Kazmierski	Son of Henry W. Kazmierski 1945/45			2/6/2020
Arlene O'Connor (A)	2284 Commodores Club Blvd., St. Augustine FL 32080-9161, 904-540- 6343 giraffebabe@comcast.net			2/8/2020
Clyde (Ike) Watson	308 State Street, Rogers City, MI. 49779. 989-884-3873. No e-mail given	SQ3 Rate HM3	1963 - 1964	Reinstated from 2014
Alan R. Moore Plank Owner LHD-2	4109-B Cedar Lane, Portsmouth, VA, 23703, 757-754-7185, amoore0072004@yahoo.com	COMM RMSN	1991/1993	3/19/2020
David J. Raines (LHD- 2)	176 Spring Dr Ext, Winston Salem, NC, 27107, 336-462-38498, djraines96@gmail.com	MP1, MP2	3/1992	5/4/2020
Glenn L. Shock	YN3, YN in Gunnery office 248 Reede Dr, Butler, Ohio, 44822, 419-564-4121, glennshock@yahoo.com	G-6	1955/1959	5/11/2020
William Louis Skrent	18000 Mayfield St., Livonia, MI, 48152, 734-765-3802, wjskrent@sbcglobal.net	E Div. EM3	9/1967 <b>–</b> 6/1969	5/20/2020
William H. Lewis Jr.	610 Steeplechase Court, Deptford NJ, 08096, 856-686-0683, barbnb46@gmail.com	Cag 60, VS-34, AN	1964/1966	6/5/2020

## ROSTER INFO CHANGES Report for JULY 2020 BUCCANEER

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ROSTER INFO CHANGES	Date Rcd
Decunto	Pasquale J.	P O Box 571, Methuen MA 01844-0571	10/16/19
White	Edward J	ejw10563@comcast.net	10/24/19
Ellason	Sylvia	lellason@sbcglobal.net	10/24/19
Parsh	Harrison	harryandvera@swbcglobal.net	10/24/19
Arkin	William E	850-456-4509	10/29/19
Marney	Raymond	Jonesborough, TN	10/29/19
Reeve	Bruce	805-794-0733	10/26/19
Reeves	Marvin	537 McCauley Pond Rd, Harrington DE 19952	10/26/19
Relyea	Richard	400 Merri Lane, Mifflinburg PA 17844-9794, 570-966-4872	10/26/19
Evans	Larry D.	Change Phone 801-518-9611	10/28/19
Miller	Laurence F.	Add Phone 570-662-5384	10/28/19
Marquis	Errol	121 Cross River Road, Mt. Kisco NY 10549	10/31/19
Ball	Philip	philipandjoann@yahoo.com	11/1/19
Cloer	Terry	twcloer@gmail.com	11/1/19
Crawford	Jessi	jessijcrawford@belsouth.net	11/1/19
letcher	Andy	afletcha11959@aol.com	11/3/19
ong -	Charles	chuckella@verizon.net	11/3/19
Vlagaw	James	buddy803@gmail.com	11/3/19
_eever	Gerald	geraldleever@comcast.net	11/3/19
Niemi	Alden	aldenniemi@yahoo.com	11/5/19
Dean	Russell	russelldean86@icloud.com	11/7/19
Cheryl	Malcik	sunnymecat@yahoo.com	11/11/19
Russell	Dean	russell.dean@comcast.net	11/16/19
Prom	Fred	511 Cedar Grove Rd, Rm 19, Farnham VA 22460-2636	1/5/2020
Degendorfer	Al	2665 Tallant Road, N-187, Santa Barbara CA 93105	12/15/2019
Hansen	Douglas	201-230-1703	1/29/2020
Peters	Ben	708-702-4901	1/29/2020
Monize	John	jrdlm075@sbcglobal.net	1/29/2020
Foster	Clarence	pepsipair@oh.rr.com	1/25/2020
Nietschke	Dee	deenietschke@comcast.net	1/28/2020
Skaggs	Edward	esonnysue@gmail.com	1/26/2020
Kenneally	Norm	normkenneally@gmail.com211A Reserve Green Drive,	2/3/2020
Kemicany	Norm	Moorehead City, NC 28557-8947	2/3/2020
Revels	Ronnie	lumbee1944@yahoo.com	2/11/2020
Γhompson	Sanford	sanford_thompson@msn.com	2/12/2020
Kaufmann	Lee	1690 E. Firestone Ct.Chandler AZ 85249 410-960-0649, leejkaufmann@msn.com	3/6/2020
Myers	Marshall M	1123 SE 36 <sup>th</sup> Terrace, Cape Coral FL 33904, 406-249-2419, w3gik@outlook.com	3/30/2020
Koach	Robert	bkoach2@aol.com	3/30/2020
Covino	Robert F.	9294 SW 93 <sup>rd</sup> Circle, Ocala, FL, 34481, 617-966-2194,	4/20/2020
-		rfcovino@gmail.com	, =, ====
Bryant	Michael PO LHD-2	bryantmh@gmail.com	4/21/2020
Kelleher	Robert	bobkelleher2325@outlook.com	4/22/2020
Dean	Russell F	russell.dean@comcast.net	4/22/2020
Butterbaugh	Jerry	21 S. Leonardi St., St. Augustine, FL 32084-0483	4/24/2020
Blakeman	Robert R.	3526 N 176 <sup>th</sup> Plz. Apt 105, Omaha NE 68116-2815	4/24/2020
Godlewski	Marion (Butch)	919-801-3915	6/1/2020
			-, -,

### LOOKING FORWARD TO SAN DIEGO



### **USS Hornet and USS Essex Reunion**

"An Essex Class Carrier Joint Reunion"

The **2021** reunion will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 2270 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108. It is slated for the week of **September 13 to September 18, 2021**.

<u>The Military Reunion Planners group</u> will be facilitating this joint reunion. They will be working with Essex and Hornet to provide REGISTRATION, TOUR INFORMATION and a PLANNING ITINERARY. The USS Essex will be arriving ahead of the USS Hornet group and kick things off first thing Monday morning the 13<sup>th</sup>. The USS Hornet group will follow in by Wed the 15<sup>th</sup>. The USS Hornet will also be participating with the USS Essex in the Hospitality Rooms and Ships' Stores.

We will have more information as it becomes available. Let us come together again and make this another enjoyable reunion of friends, family and Shipmates. This is a first ever for both Associations to hold a joint reunion and it can be the start of more to come. I will update everyone in the upcoming *Buccaneers* with as much information we have at that time.

Point of Contact: Tom Ferelli tom@ussessexassociation.com or 602-882-0375 in AZ time zone

### **POSSIBLE SAN DIEGO TOUR OPTIONS**

#### SAN DIEGO CITY & OLD TOWN TOUR

Board your coach for a narrated tour of San Diego, which will show you the many diversified and unique areas of this beautiful city. Your tour includes the vibrant downtown, the Gas-Lamp Quarter with its old world buildings, and the *Embarcadero* offering a wonderful harbor view. Ride through famous *Balboa Park*, home of the *San Diego Zoo*; *La Jolla*, known as the jewel of the Pacific, and see the historic landmark Hotel Del Coronado. You will then visit Old Town, discovered by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo in 1542, and often considered California's birthplace. Here you will find the history and energy of the original settlement of the city of San Diego brought to life by history-tellers, a free museum, historic displays, plaques and time lines. Lunch will be on your own in Old Town; there are many restaurants and cafes to choose from. After lunch there will be time to visit Old Town on your own; you will find superb shopping and many small galleries. This will be a great day out!

#### USS MIDWAY MUSEUM

She was firing Tomahawk Missiles during the Liberation of Kuwait and now the *USS Midway* begins her final tour of duty in the heart of downtown San Diego's waterfront area. One of the true icons of the U.S. Navy in the latter half of the 20th century, she is a modern marvel. This is the most modern warship available for general touring today. You will take a look back at the history of America's longest serving Aircraft Carrier through many of the Museum Exhibits. The *Midway Museum* tour is a self guided audio tour, and allows you to tour at your own pace. The tour will take you from the hangar deck up to the flight deck. Ladies have the option of shopping at *Seaport Village*, while the men explore the ship.

### SEAPORT VILLAGE SHOPPING (ON YOUR OWN)

Located near the USS Midway, the Seaport Village offers more than 50 diverse shops and 17 unique eateries which offer many options for lunch on your own. This waterfront is reminiscent of a harbor-side setting of a century ago. The shops are set among cobblestone pathways bordered by ponds, lakes, fountains, lush landscaping and a boardwalk along the San Diego bay. <a href="https://www.seaportvillage.com">www.seaportvillage.com</a>

#### WORLD FAMOUS SAN DIEGO ZOO

Start by enjoying a 40-minute tour on a double-decked bus covering about seventy-five percent of the Zoo. Your tour ticket also includes use of the Express Bus, double or single-decked buses with green signs on the sides that allow guests to hop on and off at five different stops throughout the Zoo. The Express buses pass by the stops every 20 minutes or less and are great for quick transportation to the different exhibits. You may also take an "airborne" shortcut over the treetops; this aerial transportation also offers a spectacular view of the zoo and surrounding Balboa Park. You will have plenty of time to explore personal places of interest. The zoo offers many restaurants for lunch on your own. The restaurants offer a variety of choices including all-American favorites and tasty treats from around the world. There are numerous lifts and moving sidewalks to help get you through the park; however there is still a fair amount of walking required at the Zoo.

### MARINE CORPS RECRUIT GRADUATION CEREMONY

Many Marines were introduced to the USMC at MCRD San Diego's yellow footprints and share this experience with all Marines. The graduation marks the end of a recruit's time in boot camp, and final dismissal from basic training. The graduation ceremony includes the graduating recruits, their Drill Instructors and other key training personnel. Highlighted performances include the Marine Band of San Diego and the Depot Mascot. Lunch will follow at the *Bayview* located on base. Following lunch there will be time to visit the Museum on base and shop at the impressive Marine Store.

### SAN DIEGO HARBOR CRUISE

Sometimes a beautiful city is best appreciated from the water. Enjoy a wonderful cruise tour of San Diego bay and enjoy the many sights best viewed from the water. Board your yacht and embark on a fully narrated tour, which passes by both Naval bases, the munitions bases and attack helicopters. You also will sail under the Coronado Bridge to Point Loma to see the Cabrillo monument, among many other things enroute. Snacks, drinks and restrooms are available on board. Keep your eyes open for sealions.

You are invited to experience the first class service and fabulous food aboard one of the finest yachts on the Bay. Enjoy a fabulous dinner cruise while viewing 25 scenic miles of San Diego's magnificent skyline. Dress is business casual; plated dinners include Grilled Flat Iron Steak, Fresh Atlantic Salmon, Rosemary Grilled Chicken, or Vegetable Lasagna.

In addition to these suggested tours, what else might be of interest to the Association for tour consideration? We would need to have a minimum of 35 people to participate in each or any of the tours that finally get selected. Your input is greatly appreciated. Send any suggestions to Reunion Coordinator, Tom Ferelli, tferelli @gmail. com or 602-882-0375 (cell phone for voice and text) (Arizona time zone).

NOTICE: We are in the process of establishing the Plan of the Week and are soliciting comments and input for the scheduling of events at the 2021 Reunion in San Diego. I am asking whether the Plan should include the Ladies Auction at some point? Please email, call or text to advise whether you will be bringing some items and what you think the level of interest would be in light of travel and baggage restrictions. Again, contact Tom Ferelli at the contact information indicated above.

### **USS ESSEX ASSOCIATION**

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

#### **CREWMEMBER DESCENDANTS**

OPENS: JANUARY 1
POSTMARK DEADLINE: APRIL 30
AWARDED: ON OR ABOUT MAY 10



### **Ethel Walker Scholarship Program**

The ESSEX Scholarship program is designed to financially assist ESSEX crew descendants to attend higher education beyond K-12. College, University, Community or Junior College and Trade schools are all acceptable. The Scholarship program provides the successful candidate \$1000.00 to be used towards their tuition. The Association will provide one \$1000.00 scholarship per calendar year. We hope that everyone takes advantage of this program.

The application will be available January 1, each year.

The postmark deadline for submission each year is April 30.

The selection and award of the annual scholarship will be held May 10 each year, allowing time to make arrangements for the beginning of the school year.

Rules and application forms are available on request from Chairman Bruce Sims, Vice Chairman Berlyn Ware, Secretary Don Szulist, or Assistant Treasurer Eugene Schmidt. They will be sent to you by E-Mail or paper sent by U S Postal service.

If you're interested in applying, request your forms, then please fill out the application as directed and mail your application with a copy of your acceptance letter to:

USS ESSEX ASSOCIATION 116 Allium Ct Griffin, GA 30223-5797

Mark envelope, "Scholarship"

# DONATE TO THE USS ESSEX SCHOLARSHIP FUND Ethel Walker Scholarship Fund

Donation <u>Amount</u>				
From: Name				
Street Address				
City	State	Zip Code	Phone	
E-Mail Address				

Please make check payable to: USS ESSEX ASSOCIATION and send with this form to; Assistant Treasurer, Eugene Schmidt, 3823 Wyoming Ave SW, Wyoming, Michigan 49519-3659

### **TAPS**

NAME	RELATION	NOTIFIED
Jean Rau	Widow of Norb Rau	<b>Bob Nause</b>
Joe DuErmit	Aboard 1943-1945	Tom Ferelli
David Flynn	Son of Robert Flynn	<b>Bob Nause</b>
Alex Wolfenden	Aboard 1950-1952	<b>Bob Nause</b>
Walter Matthews	Aboard 1960-1962	Bob Nause
Roy Blacklock	Aboard 1943-1945	Chuck Fiedler
Charles N (Chuck) Stanley	Aboard 1956-1957	Bob Nause



Be sure to notify the chaplain, Bob Nause, of any known shipmate passings. See page 2 for the contact information.

### SICK BAY

### NAME REASON NOTIFIED

William (Bill) McCaffrey In rehab following lawnmower accident Bob Nause

Be sure to notify the chaplain, Bob Nause, of any known shipmate illness or injuries. See page 2 for the contact information.



With the cancellation of the 2020 reunion and its income, it is more important than ever to visit and support the ship's store.

You can contact the Storekeeper, Tom Ferelli, by phone at 602-882-0375 or by mail at 19808 N 43rd Ln, Glendale, AZ 85308-7390.

The profits from our purchases not only go to support the Association but also permit the Storekeeper to find and purchase new items.

In addition to buying Essex store merchandise online, you can submit your Membership dues using the PayPal online service as well. This avoids having to write a check and mailing it.

#### **USS ESSEX ASSOCIATION**

1916 Sonoma Ln. Lemon Grove CA 91945-3534

TO:

#### **USS ESSEX Association Dues Notice**

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY and MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE: USS ESSEX ASSOCIATION

### DO NOT MAKE THEM PAYABLE TO EUGENE SCHMIDT OR BOB PETERS.

MAIL TO: EUGENE SCHMIDT 3823 Wyoming Ave, NW, Wyoming, MI 49519-3659

Please check here [ ] **only** if this is a <u>change to your address phone number or email address that is listed in the roster.</u> Membership cards will be mailed by the Secretary.

NAME:		
Street Address:		
City/State/Zip code:_		
Contact Phone #:	Email address:	
	(Please CIRCLE the appropriate year(	s) you are paying for or making a donation)
	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 or DONATI	ON: \$
		\$
	Total amount :	\$

You may receive a dues notice by mail. The dues notice form is printed here on the Buccaneer back cover and the option of paying dues online is available on the website under the "MEMBERS" tab. The expiration date will be printed on any mailing labels and on your Membership card. Please remember to bring your membership card to the reunions to verify Membership status and gain access into our Annual Business/ General Membership meeting.