



# DESRON 30 News

## Reunion Association Newsletter



Winter 2017

Vol. 5 No. 2

### Director's Letter

*By Dick Myers*

This is a short newsletter to update everyone on the recent past events and upcoming activities.

Our Savannah reunion was cancelled on short notice due to Hurricane Irma. It was good that we did so since the hotel ended up with four feet of water inside. I cancelled all the tours and other events and managed to get most of our money back. I returned 100% of all the money sent to me by you for the reunion events. We cannot be responsible for your cancelled travel arrangements, but I understand most of you did okay with the airlines.

It was a shame we had to cancel since we had a great program planned at a reasonable cost. We had a good crowd signed up with 50 people coming. Since it was so popular, it has been suggested to me that we re-schedule Savannah and repeat the same events. I would be glad to do that, but I still can't predict the weather. I am in favor of trying again in 2019, and we will discuss the options at the Wichita reunion. They don't have hurricanes in Kansas, but Toto tells me they have tornados. I hope we avoid that.

Our spring newsletter will again discuss the Wichita reunion and give you details. Hope you will all come.

*Dick*

### Director's Letter

*By Dennis Holt*

The contingents from the West of the Mississippi were deeply disappointed, too, that the reunion had to be cancelled, especially for the safety of the attendees.

The idea of planning and rebooking Savannah in 2019 is a terrific idea... perhaps with a change to May rather than September. Definitely a subject to discuss in Wichita in 2018.

*Dennis*

### Financial Report January 2018

*By Dick Myers*

As stated in the last issue, funds from the new membership fee are coming in, but our reduced membership numbers are cutting into our balance. We should not have to change the rate for this year. We need your dues.

As of January 2018, we have slightly more than \$4,700 in the bank. This balance includes all the expenses due to the cancellation of the reunion in Savannah.

### In Memoriam

*By Dennis Holt & Dick Myers*

Since the last newsletter, we are sad to inform you of the passing of the following:

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE	RANK
<i>USS Cotten</i>			
Bailey	Leon	C.	
Heath	Herbert	Abner	F3c
Howze	Jesse	N.	
Koneczny	Leonard	M.	
Ledyard	Robert	H. (Bob)	
Leighton	Paul	A.	DK1
Maegli	Robert	F.	S1c
New	Herman	W.	
Nickerson	Stuart		
Niewola	Edward	Paul	EM2

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MIDDLE	RANK
Patterson	Edmund	F., Jr.	SGM3
Pearl	Vincent	J.	GM1
Rizzo	Nick		
Strong	Chester	Waymond	S1c
Winter	John	Richard	S2c
<b>USS Gatling</b>			
Hickman, Jr.	Lee	M.	MM2

Our sympathy goes out to the families of all deceased members of the DESRON30 Reunion Association.

## Mark Your Calendars

*By Dick Myers*

The 2018 DESRON 30 reunion will be held at Holiday Inn/Wichita East I-35, 549 S. Rock Road, Wichita, KS 67207 (phone: 316-686-7131).

Reunion dates are Thursday, 9/13/18, through Saturday, 9/15/18, with a room rate of \$94.00 plus tax, and booking scheduled at the group rate for two days before and after the reunion.

Details on tours and other events will be published in the Spring newsletter, along with the banquet menu for the dinner to be held on Saturday, 9/15/18. Please plan to join us!

## Things to do in Wichita

*By Nancy Bielot*

I don't know about you, but when I first heard the reunion was going to be in Wichita, my initial thought was, "Why? What's there to do?" Well, I did some research, and there are actually quite a few things to do in Wichita. Here is a partial listing, and more information will be published in our Spring newsletter.

The *Sedgwick County Zoo* is the seventh largest zoo in the nation. They have a giraffe feeding station and a boat tour. Plan to spend 3-4 hours, as the zoo has more than 3,000 animals! It's the #1 outdoor family attraction in Kansas. For more info: <https://www.scz.org/>

*The Keeper of the Plains* is a 44-foot tall steel sculpture that was created in 1974; it stands where the Big and Little Arkansas rivers join together. This sculpture of an Indian Chief was designed by Native American artist Blackbear Bosin (1921-1980) and constructed by Tom Washburn of Architectural Metal Products. To get to the statue you walk across a pedestrian suspension bridge from. If this sounds interesting to you, check out: <http://kansastravel.org/keeperoftheplains.htm>

Dating back to the late 1800s, the *Old Town District* is composed of historic elements including the lampposts, brick streets, and warehouses. Visit one of the local businesses in the district ranging from shops to theaters to restaurants to museums. For more info: <http://oldtownwichita.com/>

Speaking of museums, did you that that Wichita has 33 museums? Various exhibits at the *Museum of World Treasures* include: Natural History, Military Exhibits, American History, and World Civilizations. Also, there is one of the most complete *Tyrannosaurus rex* in the country. Learn more about this museum at: <https://worldtreasures.org/>

How about visiting the *Wichita Toy Train Museum*? Organized in 1985, this museum celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016. This museum contains some extensive layouts of "O-gauge" and "S-gauge" trains. Interested? Then be sure to check out: <http://www.wichitatoytrainmuseum.org/home-page.html>

If that doesn't appeal to you, try the *Kansas Aviation Museum*. After all, Wichita is the "air capital of the world!" See everything from a 1927 Swallow to a Learjet. For more info: <http://kansasaviationmuseum.org/>

Another choice would be the *Cowtown Museum*. Museum staff members dress in period costume (1865-1880) and demonstrate things like gardening, tending livestock, and cooking. This museum was established in 1952. Check out the *Cowtown Museum* at: <http://www.oldcowtown.org/Pages/default.aspx>

Are you feeling lucky? Then you may want to visit the *Kansas Star Casino*. There are over 1,770 slot machines, over 50 table games, an 8-table poker room, and five great restaurants. For more info on the casino: <https://www.kansasstarcasino.com/explore>

This is just a small sampling of what is available in the Wichita area. Check it out... you'll be pleasantly surprised... and we'd love to have you join us at the reunion!

# 2018 DUES REQUEST

AND MEMBER INFORMATION UPDATE

Make checks payable to:  
**DESRON30 ASSOCIATION INC.**

Please mail the completed Dues Request and payment to:  
**Richard Myers**  
**220 North Decatur Lane - Decatur, GA 30033-5947**

**IF YOU ARE A WIDOW, OR YOU HAVE ALREADY SUBMITTED YOUR 2018 DUES,  
PLEASE DISREGARD THIS REQUEST.**

**PLEASE RETURN FORM WITH ANY CHANGES TO THE ROSTER.**



PLEASE CHECK HERE FOR ANY  
CHANGES TO THE ROSTER AND  
SHOW CHANGES BELOW

**\$20.00**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell/Alternate Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**SHIP SERVED ON AND DATES (Check one)**

USS Caperton (DD-650) \_\_\_\_ USS Cotten (DD-669) \_\_\_\_ USS Daly (DD-519) \_\_\_\_

USS Dortch (DD-670) \_\_\_\_ USS Gatling (DD-671) \_\_\_\_

Dates Served Aboard Ship \_\_\_\_\_

Rank/Rate Aboard Ship (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

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Or – sign onto website at <http://desron30.org> and request

If you no longer wish to receive the DESRON30 postal mailings, please check here.

***FEEL FREE TO MAKE ANY COMMENTS BELOW OR ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET***

Remarks –

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