

AAFA



May 1, 2025

Attention On Deck !!

It has been a few months since our last Newsletter and a few months closer to the Reunion in Portland, Maine ... Lobster, Clams, other great seafoods and entertainment.

Liberty Call will commence SUNDAY, September 14, 2025 through WEDNESDAY September 17, 2025 with checkout on Thursday the 18th. Special room rates have been set for two days before and two days after the scheduled hard dates. ABSOLUTE cut-off-date for room reservations is AUGUST 1st. No exceptions so please reserve early. You can always cancel if necessary. Early reservations allow for accurate negotiations for tours/banquet/etc..

The PLACE: Best Western Merry Manor Inn
700 Main Street
South Portland, Maine 04106

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotels-in-south-portland/best-western-merry-manor-inn/propertyCode.20015.html#

To make room reservations call 207-774-6151 The room rate is \$119.00 + tax (currently %9) ASK FOR THE AAFA ROOM BLOCK. Call THIS number DIRECT.

Included in your room rate:

The Hotel will reimburse you for TAXI fare from the Portland International Jet Port and RETURN. Present your receipt at check in for full credit at checkout.

A full complimentary breakfast each morning.

Coffee and Tea available 24/7 in the lobby.

Free Parking

Spacious Hospitality Suite, Alcohol allowed.

The BW Merry Manor Inn provided references for more than 100 Navy and USMC Ships/Units.

We have scheduled a Guest Speaker at our Banquet. Al LeGrow, Capt. USN(Ret) served for 27 years. He was an intelligence officer assigned to an A-6 squadron (VA-115) on USS Midway. His career included assignment to Air Wing Eight aboard the USS Nimitz during the Iranian hostage rescue attempt, serving as CARGRU Eight Intel Officer during Desert Storm. His final assignment was managing an R&D program called TENCAP (Tactical Exploitation of National Capabilities). A number of projects explored the potential for satellite sensors to contribute to an understanding of shoreline defenses in support of AMPHIB ops.

Membership renewal has been outstanding. This includes several new members from the AKA/APA "Old Amphibious Group". WELCOME! We look forward to sharing "Sea Stories".

We are updating the Active Members by Name and Ship(s)/Station or Unit for the Website. Our apologies as this has not been updated for several years.

A special note for all who served on the Desoto Class LST's 1171, 1173, 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177 and 1178. Harris Cotter, LST-1175 has several ships patches for all ships in the class. The patches are three inches and are available by contacting Harris at harrisc1175@gmail.com or phone 923-933-2450.

Any member that has a short story or topic you would like to share please contact one of the officers so that we can make sure to get it in the next published Newsletter.

Smooth Sailing,

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