

USS TICONDEROGA Veterans' Association

NEWS

VOLUME 52 NO 2

[TICOVETS.ORG](https://www.ticovets.org)



USS ROBERT SMALLS (CG-62)

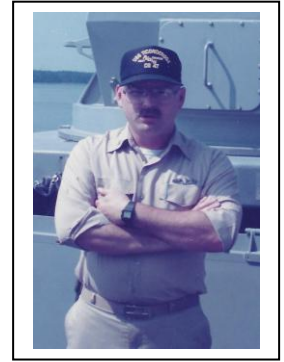
formerly USS CHANCELLORSVILLE (CG-62)

U.S. Navy's 16th Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT – JON KETTL

GREETINGS SHIPMATES, FRIENDS, AND FAMILY!

It is my distinct honor to welcome you to the July 2026 edition of our Association newsletter. Summer finds us in good spirits and in good company — the company of men and women who answered the call of the sea, who stood watch in all weathers, and who can still feel the deck beneath their feet when they close their eyes. Over fifty-one years into publishing this newsletter, our Association remains as strong as the steel hulls that carried us through every ocean on the globe, and I could not be prouder to have served alongside you.



Well, our 53rd Reunion in Mobile, Alabama, is in the books and it was a wonderful event! We thoroughly enjoyed the keynote speaker, Rear Admiral Joe Horn, former Operations Officer (and my boss) on CG-47. His talk about the progress of the AEGIS weapons system over the years into what it is now, which includes ballistic missile defense, is a major development in the defense of our country and is also *the* major naval technology program which has had a major impact on recent events in the Middle East. Joe and his lovely wife Marge were our welcome guests and enjoyed sharing tales of our duties onboard CG-47 as well as our shared maritime heritage with everyone in attendance. Thank you, Boss; I hope you and Marge will join us in many more of our future reunions.

For a human-interest story, see the enclosed article on the cover ship of the Ticonderoga-class.

As we look ahead to the coming months, I want to encourage every member to mark your calendars for our 2027 reunion in San Diego, California, May 12-16, 2027. It has been over a dozen years since we have been on the west coast. I also want to extend my deepest gratitude to our volunteers and committee members — the Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Reunion Committee Members, and every behind-the-scenes contributor who helped make our Mobile reunion a resounding success. We are only as strong as our crew, membership, and their families. Speaking of families, I want to publicly thank my wife Valerie, step-daughter Christina, and great-grand-daughter Aryanna for all their support and assistance before, during, and after the Mobile reunion. They are the BEST!

As for the reunion pictures from Mobile, they are available now at this link. Use PIN 7253 to download:

<https://yannickapersphotography.pixieset.com/ticonderogaveteransmobileal2026/>

I look forward to developing the reunion plan for San Diego for the 54th Reunion of our Association from my new home in Florida. I look forward to seeing many of you next May in California. Until then...

Fair winds and following seas,

Jonathan “Jon” Kettl, ISCM(SW), USN (Ret)
President, USS TICONDEROGA Veterans’ Association
President@Ticovets.org or jonkettl@gmail.com, (540) 316-1331



Photos from the 53rd Annual Ticonderoga Reunion in Mobile, Alabama

2026 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President:

Jonathan "Jon" Kettl
The Villages, FL
(540) 316-1331
Jonkettl@gmail.com
President@Ticovets.org

**Executive Vice President:
VACATED****1st Vice President:**

Ron Tucker
Charleston, SC
(443) 624-3012
rplimsoll@gmail.com
1stVP@Ticovets.org

2nd Vice President:

Keith Alyea
Lafayette, IN
(765) 430-0929
nikonkeith@gmail.com
2ndVP@ticovets.org

Secretary:

Eric J. Young
North Canton, OH
(330) 284-2602
Secretary@Ticovets.org

Treasurer:

Robert "Bob" Sullivan
St Augustine, FL
(757) 754-0547
Treasurer@Ticovets.org

Chaplain:

Pastor Brett Inman
Tucson, AZ
(520) 909-3998
Binman4@Cox.net
Chaplain@Ticovets.org

**Parliamentarian:
VACATED – NEED
VOLUNTEER****Committees:****Audit Committee:**

Ernie St. Pierre
Derry, NH
(603) 434-2197
phgs@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor:

Keith Alyea
Lafayette, IN
(765) 430-0929
nikonkeith@gmail.com

WebMaster:

**VACANT - NEED
VOLUNTEER**
WebAdmin@Ticovets.org

2027 Reunion Committee:

President Jon Kettl
1st Vice President Ron Tucker
Treasurer Bob Sullivan

Directors/Past Presidents:**Director/P.P. 2024:**

Olen "Andy" Anderson
Foreman, AR
(903) 701-3198
Olengene@yahoo.com

Director/P.P. 2022/3:

Jim Lutz
Kearney, NE
(308) 293-3636
jim.a.lutz@gmail.com

Director/P.P. 2021/2:

Sean McConnell
Boiling Springs, PA
(717) 713-3895
Sean1465@comcast.net

Director/P. P.2020/21:

Larry J Qualter
Peekskill, NY
(914) 734-7677
Lqualter65@gmail.com

Director/P.P. 2019/20:

William "Bill" Spanbauer
Larsen, WI
(920) 410-7500
ticocg47ht2sw@gmail.com

PAY MEMBERSHIP DUES, SEND A CHANGE OF ADDRESS, OR MAKE A DONATION, MAIL TO:

**ROBERT SULLIVAN
P.O. BOX 3637
ST AUGUSTINE, FL 32085**

PAY BY CHECK or CREDIT/DEBIT CARD via ZELLE

SEE [HTTPS://TICOVETS.ORG/](https://ticovets.org/) FOR ADDITIONAL PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

2027 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President:

Ron Tucker
Charleston, SC
(443) 624-3012
rplimsoll@gmail.com
President@Ticovets.org

Executive Vice President:

Jonathan "Jon" Kettl
The Villages, FL
(540) 316-1331
Jonkettl@gmail.com
ExecVP@Ticovets.org

1st Vice President:

Keith Alyea
Lafayette, IN
(765) 430-0929
nikonkeith@gmail.com
1stVP@Ticovets.org

2nd Vice President:

VACANT

Secretary:

Greg Janes
Parkersburg, WV
(304) 699-8680
Secretary@Ticovets.org

Treasurer:

Robert "Bob" Sullivan
St Augustine, FL
(757) 754-0547
Treasurer@Ticovets.org

Chaplain:

Pastor Brett Inman
Tucson, AZ
(520) 909-3998
Binman4@Cox.net
Chaplain@Ticovets.org

Parliamentarian:

**VACANT – NEED
VOLUNTEER**

Committees:**Audit Committee:**

Ernie St. Pierre
Derry, NH
(603) 434-2197
phgs@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor:

Keith Alyea
Lafayette, IN
(765) 430-0929
nikonkeith@gmail.com

WebMaster:

**VACANT - NEED
VOLUNTEER**
WebAdmin@Ticovets.org

2028 Reunion Committee:

President Ron Tucker
Exec Vice President Jon Kettl
Treasurer Bob Sullivan
Bob Brainard
Larry Qualter

Directors/Past Presidents:**Director/P.P. 2025-2026:**

Jonathan "Jon" Kettl
The Villages, FL
(540) 316-1331
Jonkettl@gmail.com

Director/P.P. 2024:

Olen "Andy" Anderson
Foreman, AR
(903) 701-3198
Olengene@yahoo.com

Director/P.P. 2022/3:

Jim Lutz
Kearney, NE
(308) 293-3636
jim.a.lutz@gmail.com

Director/P.P. 2021/2:

Sean McConnell
Boiling Springs, PA
(717) 713-3895
Sean1465@comcast.net

Director/P. P.2020/21:

Larry J Qualter
Peekskill, NY
(914) 734-7677
Lqualter65@gmail.com

Director/P.P. 2019/20:

William "Bill" Spanbauer
Larsen, WI
(920) 410-7500
ticocg47ht2sw@gmail.com

PAY MEMBERSHIP DUES, SEND A CHANGE OF ADDRESS, OR MAKE A DONATION, MAIL TO:

**ROBERT SULLIVAN
P.O. BOX 3637
ST AUGUSTINE, FL 32085**

PAY BY CHECK or CREDIT/DEBIT CARD via ZELLE

SEE [HTTPS://TICOVETS.ORG/](https://ticovets.org/) FOR ADDITIONAL PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS



Send THIS FORM with your Check payable to:
 USS TICONDEROGA VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
 Or pay via Zelle



ROBERT SULLIVAN
P.O. BOX 3637, ST AUGUSTINE, FL 32085
PLEASE PRINT

THIS IS A (check all that apply): NEW MEMBERSHIP ___ RENEWAL ___
 CHANGE OF ADDRESS ___ OTHER ___

NAME: _____

SHIP: CV/CVA/CVS-14 or CG- _____ DIVISION: _____

RATE/RANK (highest while aboard): _____ YEARS ABOARD (from/to): _____

ADDRESS: _____ SPOUSE: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE #: _____ CELL #: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ @ _____

DOWNLOAD THIS FORM AT TICOVETS.ORG

MEMBERSHIP TYPE [circle one]: LIFE REGULAR ASSOCIATE

DUES AMOUNT INCLUDED FOR PERIOD:

_____ (\$20)... Dues for Jan – DEC 2026 _____ (\$20)... Dues for Jan – DEC 2029

_____ (\$20)... Dues for Jan – DEC 2027 _____ (\$20)... Dues for Jan – DEC 2030

_____ (\$20)... Dues for Jan – DEC 2028 _____ (\$20)... Dues for Jan – DEC 2031

_____ Donation to General Fund

_____ LIFE Member Amount (see table below):

Age 29 & under – \$1,100

Age 30 – 39 – \$900

Age 40 – 49 – \$700

Age 59 – 60 – \$550

Age 60 – 69 – \$350

Age 70 & over – \$150

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER – CHAPLAIN BRETT INMAN



I remember talking to one of my uncles about prayer. He told me he had “tried it” a couple times but ended up feeling stupid because he felt no one was listening and he was talking to himself. As a result, he did not feel God was real. Scripture assures us that God does hear our prayers, but it must be accompanied with sincerity of heart and faith. God’s listening is not necessarily connected to intensity of emotions but to relationship and obedience.

1 John 5:14 states, “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.” In Psalms 145:18 it reminds us, “The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.” Isaiah 65:24 goes as far as to say: “before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear them.” If what Scripture states is true, where is the disconnect for people who are sincerely praying but only feel silence? Where is the voice of God saying I hear you and will answer? Even in Scripture we can see individuals reaching out to God but get silence. In Psalm 13:1 we read “How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?”

Let me address this concern in two points: First, from a cognitive perspective, prayer usually activates the same mental systems as inner speech (the voice you hear when thinking). You are generating words internally. There is usually no external sensory feedback (no audible reply). Your brain processes it similarly to self-talk. So subjectively, it can feel like you are talking to yourself- because neurologically, it overlaps with that process. If you were expecting a clear voice, a strong emotional response, a sign of physical sensation and that does not happen, it can seem like “nothing is there”. In addition, if you are entering into the practice of prayer questioning whether God exists or whether prayer works, the brain may default to interpreting the experience as self-generated and the sensation of “I’m just talking to myself.”

Secondly, it is interesting to see that silence in Scripture is never presented as God not hearing us. Often during times of silence, we can see from the stories in God’s Word, it is a time of spiritual growth, testing or timing. God is very much working in the background and hearing the person’s prayers.

As we learn to talk to God and align our lives to His will we do see changes in our lives. We find ourselves growing in peace (Philippians 4:6-7), increase our love for others, have newfound conviction for living rightly and a willingness to correct ourselves when we want to do wrong. Thus, even when our prayers feel weak, awkward, or one-sided we can look back and see God was at work in our lives.

In Romans 8:26, we see that God is actively involved when we pray and sends us help by having the Holy Spirit intercede for us. “The Spirit helps us in our weakness...the Spirit Himself intercedes for us through wordless groans”. The Holy Spirit perfects our prayers and is able to express our deepest thoughts and needs to God the Father. This was all made possible by Jesus’ ministry and work on the cross.

Many studies show that people who regularly pray can have enhanced mental and physical health benefits. Self-report studies point to lower levels of depression and anxiety and improved ability of dealing with stress because of their confidence that God hears and answers their prayers. Prayer is not about impressing God or having the perfect words but is about making yourself present to God in mind

and body. It is about talking to God and building a relationship in addition to His shaping your heart and life.

God commands us to pray and He promises to hear. Jesus makes access possible; the Holy Spirit intercedes for us. Therefore, we can trust He listens - even when sometimes it does not “feel” like it.

In Memoriam

The USS Ticonderoga Veterans’ Association pauses to honor all shipmates who have crossed the bar since our last edition. Their names are inscribed in the history of this ship and this nation. We ask members to submit the names of departed shipmates to me at **Chaplain@Ticovets.org** so that no one is forgotten. May they have fair winds and following seas.

Warmest regards,

Pastor Brett Inman



Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, Point Loma, California

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY – ERIC YOUNG

USS Ticonderoga Veterans Association Members Meeting, Mobile, AL - 5/16/26

- Meeting called to order at 1302 by President Jon Kettl
- Welcome words from President Kettl and briefing of the sequence of events for this meeting.
 - Need to establish a quorum. Per the by-laws a quorum has been established.
- Opening prayer – Chaplain Brett Inman
- Pledge of Allegiance lead by Andy Anderson
- Review of 2025 meeting minutes suspended by unanimous vote
- Report of officers
 - Executive VP Bill Spanbauer: report omitted due to not being present
 - 1st VP Ron Tucker: to read at his later turn.
 - Treasurer Bob Sullivan report:
 - Recap of 2025 reunion finances (\$3,423.87 loss)
 - Orlando reunion not well attended, which impacted tour, minimum cost of meals, and room rate finances. Treasurer Sullivan explained this in further detail.
 - Treasurer Sullivan reiterated that reunions are not successful if people don't show up.
 - Andy Anderson asked what the association funds sits at today.
 - The overall 2025 budget and results
 - Highlights include some funds that were used for 2026 (website, reunion photographer).
 - What we didn't anticipate was the shipping costs of items from the USS Midway Museum (~\$650.00).
 - 2027 proposed budget review
 - Overall budget has increased slightly.
 - Will be looking at a different webmaster.
 - Notable savings in the newsletters.
 - No call for stamps or printer ink funds due to more electronic functions, Zelle, etc.
 - Hotels haven't required a deposit which has had a positive impact on the association.
 - CD continues to be rolled over and is making a positive return.
 - Motion to approve 2027 budget; approved.
 - 1st VP Ron Tucker
 - Newsletter production costs going down due to postage savings and finding a new printer. Will continue printing until it becomes burdensome to the budget.
- Change of incorporation registration – Treasurer Bob Sullivan
 - Illinois to Florida
 - Does cost about \$50 more per year.
 - Easier for Bob to manage in Florida
- Review & Adaptation of proposed by-laws changes
 - By-laws were made present to the membership via the December 2025 newsletter and posted on the website for membership review.
 - Today, we need to either

- Accept as written, or
 - Review Item by item
 - Greg Janes made a motion to accept as written; seconded by several. Opposed by one Nay. Motion carries.
 - Revised By-Laws have been updated on our website (<https://ticovets.org>)
- New business – Ron Tucker
 - 2027 reunion discussion
 - 3 possible locations to be voted on today
 - San Diego (West coast proposal), Tucson, or Green Bay
 - 2nd VP Alyea passed out voting sheets
 - Don Archer asked how many rooms we are committed to
 - President Kettl said we reserved 40 and have to meet 85% (33 rooms)
 - Ballots were collected by 2nd VP Alyea and counted by him and Treasurer Sullivan
 - San Diego was selected by the membership
 - May 12 – 16, 2027
 - Votes were San Diego 22, Tucson 3, and Green Bay 3
 - 2028 reunion: President Kettl asked for volunteers for the 2028 reunion committee
 - Bob Brainerd volunteered to be on the 2028 reunion committee but not chair it, and nominates Wilmington, NC
 - Election of 2027 officers:
 - Treasurer Sullivan has volunteered for another year
 - Secretary Young will be stepping down after this year and Greg Janes will be taking over as Secretary for a 3-year term.
 - 2nd VP (currently Keith A)
 - No volunteers.
 - 1st VP (currently Ron Tucker)
 - Keith Alyea self nominates to be 1st VP
 - Motioned and approved. None opposed. Motion carried.
 - Executive VP (currently Bill Spanbauer)
 - Ron Tucker nominated. Motion carried.
 - President (currently Jon Kettl)
 - Andy Anderson nominated Jon Kettl (already did 2 tours)
 - Motion has been seconded.
 - Motion carried.
 - Motion to nominate Ron Tucker as President and Jon Kettl as Executive VP; motion carried
 - President Kettl asked if there was any additional new business from the members
- Reports of Committees
 - Audit committee – Larry Qualter
- Meeting adjourned 1416

Sincerely,

Eric J. Young

LETTER FROM THE TREASURER – BOB SULLIVAN

A very happy June to everyone and I think I've almost recovered from our fantastic reunion this year. What a fun time at the iconic round tower high-rise Holiday Inn, right there in the Mobile downtown; only a couple of walking blocks to the festive and diverse array of shops from restaurants, pubs, creamery and trinket shops. Even taking a moment to enjoy the slower pace sitting on a park bench at the park. It was wonderful to see everyone this year and for those unable to attend, well, I look forward to seeing you next year in San Diego. Participation was much better this year as we had 54 registered for the banquet as opposed to last year's 43. The numbers make the difference so THANK YOU. Especially to the several new faces in the crowd-very good to get more of our members together. The trip to National Naval Air Museum in Pensacola was amazing. So many exhibits and displays. I could have easily spent more time there. Heidi and I had a wonderful time and look forward to seeing everyone in San Diego. It will be Heidi's first time there. And now for what you really want to know: a recap of where we are financially:

1. Our CD matured on April 22 and has been rolled over for another six months. I am very happy to report that for the 31 months we have owned our CD; it has earned over \$1,500 in interest; almost \$600 more than reported after last year's reunion. I will continue to roll it over to the highest rate possible, without regard to term.

2. We did much better this year over last year's reunion and did not incur any penalties, so yeah us! That is what having the numbers does for us. I don't know about you, but the buffet dinner on Saturday night was amazing. Just think, that was put on by a staff of three-including the chef (who was doing dishes when I went to get them for Jon's coin presentation). They put on quite the feedbag for us and with such a small staff. The 50/50 and raffle did well, bringing in \$200 and \$492 respectively. Additionally, we received \$200 for the General Fund. Thank you to all who made this so successful.

3. Last but certainly not least...2026 membership dues were due no later than December 31, 2025! For those who have already made your 2026 dues payment, thank you. If you haven't just yet, please do so soon. We need you too. If possible and affordable, consider a "Life" membership. Then you never have to worry about writing a check again! Dues for 2027 are due by December 31, 2026. Seems like all I talk about is finances (LOL).

May you all have a fun and enjoyable rest of the year!! 2027 reunion planning is already underway. Have a safe and fun summer and until the next newsletter... Heidi's and my best to all.

Warm regards,
Bob Sullivan, Treasurer

USS Robert Smalls (CG-62): A Name for the Ages (pictured on newsletter cover)

Among the most meaningful acts of recent Navy history, Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro on March 1, 2023, formally renamed Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville (CG-62) to USS Robert Smalls (CG-62). The new namesake — Robert Smalls (1839–1915) — was born into slavery in Beaufort, South Carolina. In the predawn hours of May 13, 1862, Smalls commandeered the Confederate armed transport vessel CSS Planter while her white officers were ashore, piloted her past the Confederate fortifications at Fort Sumter and signal stations of Charleston Harbor, and surrendered the ship to the Union Navy blockade fleet waiting outside the bar. He freed himself, his family, and fellow enslaved crew members in a single act of extraordinary courage. The Union Navy subsequently commissioned him as a ship's pilot, and he eventually rose to command a vessel during the war — one of the highest-ranking Black military officers of the Civil War era. After the war, Smalls served five terms in the United States House of Representatives.

USS Robert Smalls (CG-62) was commissioned in 1989 and has been forward-deployed to Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan, assigned to Carrier Strike Group Five. She displaces approximately 9,600 long tons, stretches 567 feet in length, and carries a complement of 30 officers and 300 enlisted. Her Mk 41 Vertical Launch System holds 122 cells capable of launching Standard Missiles, Tomahawk cruise missiles, and ASROC anti-submarine rockets. She also carries two MH-60R Seahawk LAMPS III helicopters. For our Association, this ship holds singular significance: CG-62 is a Ticonderoga-class cruiser — a sibling of CG-47 herself — and now she bears a name that connects naval service to the highest ideals of American freedom.

Ticonderoga-Class Cruiser Fleet Status

The twilight of the Ticonderoga class is upon us — though the sunset is arriving more slowly than originally planned. Of the 27 Ticonderoga-class cruisers commissioned since 1983, 20 have been retired. As of mid-2026, approximately seven remain in active service, with the remainder laid up or stricken from the Naval Vessel Register. (Some of these ships go to a “ship-breaker” for dismantling and they sometimes offer a “recycled” coin of the vessel. These coins are sold on eBay, just search your vessel's name.)

In November 2024, the Navy reversed a prior plan to retire all remaining Ticonderogas by fiscal year 2027. Three ships — USS Gettysburg (CG-64), USS Chosin (CG-65), and USS Cape St. George (CG-71) — were designated for service-life extensions that will keep them operational into fiscal year 2029. All three underwent hull, mechanical, engineering, and combat system upgrades as part of an extended modernization program that included upgrades to the Aegis Combat System, a new AN/SPQ-9B radar, improvements to the SQQ-89A sonar suite, and expanded Mk 41 VLS capabilities. The remaining operational Ticonderoga-class ships still slated for retirement within the next two years include USS Vicksburg (CG-69), USS Cowpens (CG-55), USS Antietam (CG-54), and USS Leyte Gulf (CG-55). When the last Ticonderoga-class cruiser is decommissioned, the U.S. Navy will no longer field guided-missile cruisers — a loss of 1,586 Mk 41 VLS cells from the fleet inventory. Congressional attention to this capability gap is ongoing.

Comments from the Newsletter Editor

Thank you for your continued loyalty to this Association, for the fellowship you bring to every gathering and every exchange of sea stories, and for the service that earned you a place in this family. The USS Ticonderoga Veterans' Association exists because you exist: veterans who believe that the bonds forged at sea deserve to be honored and maintained long after the uniform is put away.

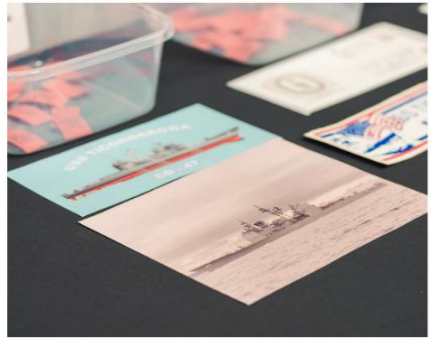
The next issue of this newsletter is already in the planning stages. We want to hear from you. Do you have a memory of life aboard CV/CVA/CVS-14, CG-47 or another Ticonderoga-class cruiser that deserves to be shared? A photo from deployment that should be part of our archive? A shipmate whose name should appear in our In Memoriam section? An article you have always wanted to write for your fellow veterans? Our pages are yours. Please send all submissions, photographs, memorial notices, and letters to the editor to: Keith Alyea (Lafayette, IN) Cell: (765) 430-0929 E: nikonkeith@gmail.com

OS2U Kingfisher: Battleship/Cruiser-based spotter plane

During WW II, carrier-based aircraft came to symbolize Naval Aviation, especially in combat. But some airplanes filled other roles that were also essential to naval combat. One of these was the ship's spotter plane, a job done throughout the war mainly by the Vought OS2U Kingfisher. An original role envisioned for aviation in the United States Navy, the spotter plane would help their ships target enemy ships further downrange than could be seen from the crow's nests. The Kingfisher was a small, single-engine, two-seat floatplane, propelled by a 450 hp Wasp Junior radial engine. It would be launched from a fifty-foot-long catapult on a turntable that allowed it to be pointed into the wind (and away from the ship). Cruiser catapults were located amidships and powered by 1200 psi compressed air. Battleship catapults were located on the stern with the launching impulse provided by a "blank" round for a 5-inch gun. In both systems, the motive force drove a piston connected to the launch cradle via a long cable strung through numerous pulleys to turn the otherwise fast piston stroke into a slow but powerful pull on the cradle. Once launched, the Kingfisher's pilot would drive toward the target at 70-100mph, keeping sight on the target while keeping an eye out for enemy planes. Meanwhile, the observer, in the large rear cockpit would call corrections back to the ship over the radio. For defense, the Kingfisher had a single .30 caliber machine gun in the nose (firing in between two cylinder heads), while the observer had either a single or twin .30 caliber flexible mount. Despite this light armament, at least two Kingfishers succeeded in shooting down Japanese Zeros over Iwo Jima in 1945, although the OS2Us usually depended on fighter aircraft to protect it. On longer scouting missions, the aircrew would fly a given distance, turn a bit, and return to the ship, resulting in a long, narrow triangular course. Multiple aircraft could be sent out to cover more area – battleships could carry three Kingfishers and cruisers typically had two each. At the end of its mission, the crew would fly back to their ship. The ship would make a wide turn, leaving an area of smooth water in its wake where the plane could set down. Then the crew would taxi up alongside, where the ship would trail a "recovery sled" – a rectangular net with square holes. The Kingfisher's main float had a spring-loaded hook on the bottom near the front and this would catch in the mat, allowing the pilot to shut down the engine and keep the plane and the ship moving at the same speed. The aircrew would attach a hook from the ship's crane to a fitting behind the pilot, and the airplane and crew would be lifted back aboard the ship. The Kingfisher could also be fitted with fixed-wheel landing gear for operating from shore bases, for training or as part of the Inshore Patrol ASW ops. For the latter role, the planes could carry either two 100lb bombs or two 325lb depth charges. Over 1500 Kingfishers were built between 1938-1942. They were replaced in late 1944 by the Curtiss SC Seahawk, but some were still serving aboard ships when the Japanese surrendered in Sept. 1945.



Photos from the 53rd Annual Ticonderoga Reunion in Mobile, Alabama



Photos from the 53rd Annual Ticonderoga Reunion in Mobile, Alabama

USS TICONDEROGA
Veterans' Association
P.O. Box 3637
St Augustine, FL 32085

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Ticonderoga tour group at Nat'l. Naval Aviation Museum, NAS Pensacola, FL Fly Navy!