



YAGRGRAM #70 - FALL 2014

Lee Doyel, 2315 Bavarian Court, Pensacola FL 32503 (850) 433-6930

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Message from Lee Doyel, chair

For those that were not notified by other means, The Association lost its founder, Harry Miller on 6 July 2014. He was buried with military honors. See paragraph to right by Roland Cote. Also, I lost my wife of 50 + years on 10 June 2014. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their prayers and support. Never have I seen such an outpouring of sympathy and condolences from so many and it really was helpful and consoling.

The reunion registration form

has been revised to reflect that a

paid up member can have ONE person (spouse, guest, relative, significant other, etc.) at the reduced rate.

Other guest(s) will pay the non-discounted rate. A dues paying member gets to have himself and ONE other at the reduced rate. A non dues paying member can become current by paying the dues of \$17.00 and get the reduced rate for himself and a guest. As stated in the San Antonio business meeting, the registration form will be the controlling and deciding factor regarding payments, orders, additional guests, use of YAGRS hotel rate, etc. Use the registration form to keep me and the Treasurer apprised of any changes/modifications you may make. If you have already submitted a registration form and need to make changes, make out an additional registration form with the changes and submit it.

cont.



USS PROTECTOR AGR-11

A great friend and leader has passed and will be sadly missed by all.

Harry's vision of a "YAGR Exhibit" aboard the U.S.S. Massachusetts was his idea and because of his perseverance and dedication his vision became a reality.

We must always remember that because of him many YAGR sailors have been reunited with former shipmates and their friendships renewed.

Thank you Chief Miller for all your hard work.

Funeral services took place in Pawtucket, RI on July 11, 2014 at the Bellows Funeral Chapel with interment at the RI Veterans Cemetery in Exeter, RI.

USS Massachusetts representatives present included Ret. Capt. John Casey, ships Curator Christopher Nardi, and Laurie Carlson of the "Women in the Military" exhibit which was built by YAGR members.

Association members present were Henry Mackay U.S.S. Vigil (AGR-12), John Hemminger U.S.S. Lookout (AGR-2), James Speigel U.S.S. Vigil (AGR-12), Al Nannini U.S.S. Tracer (AGR-15), Ron Kelling (YR-65) and Roland Cote U.S.S. Outpost (AGR-10).

A contingency of the RI VFW were present and full military honors were presented.

The hotel has a new Name. It is now the Charleston Plaza. The new owners selected it. No changes that affect YAGRS. Just a name change. The room allowance has been increased to 75. In San Antonio it was 60 and we ran short and those registering close to the cut off date had problems getting a room at the YAGR rate. SO REGISTER AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO AVOID NOT BEING ABLE TO GET A ROOM AT THE YAGR RATE.

**USS MASSACHUSETTS
submitted by Roland Core, AGR-10**

On 7-2-14 the YAGRS Association annual donation of \$1000.00 was presented to Executive Director Brad King by Roland Cote aboard the battleship USS Massachusetts, BB-59, in an area called "The Memorial Room".

Pictured are:
John Hemminger AGR-2
Executive Director Brad King
Roland Cote AGR-10



left: YAGR exhibit photo from USS Massachusetts website



Any YAGR member interested may view online a brand new web site for the battleship at www.battleshipcove.org. Click on "exhibits" and our YAGR exhibit has a photo and an explanation of our purpose in the service.

ship's coordinators - Ship's coordinators maintain an email list that is used to forward memos from the chair and advance notices of reunion plans to crew members. If you wish to be included, send an email to your ship's coordinator.

- | | | | | | |
|-------|--------------------|--|--------|----------------|--|
| AGR-1 | Frank St Mark | smarks117@hotmail.com | AGR-9 | Frank Mahaffey | bnf@att.net |
| AGR-2 | Ralph Rappuhun | rrappuhn@aol.com | AGR-10 | Paul Langenus | plangenus@cox.net |
| AGR-3 | Chuck Parker | chuckparker@gmail.com | AGR-11 | George Sleeper | gsleeper@roadrunner.com |
| AGR-4 | Steve Mierzejewski | smjm@bex.net | AGR-12 | Jesse Germany | jgermany31@gmail.com |
| AGR-5 | Bob Werstler | rdwerst@sbcglobal.net | AGR-13 | | |
| AGR-6 | Lee Doolittle | tleedoo@u.washington.edu | AGR-14 | Joe Jackson | jacksonj@pldi.net |
| AGR-7 | | | AGR-15 | Lee Doyel | mldoyel@cox.net |
| AGR-8 | Ron Stasiak | ronstasiak@rocketmail.com | AGR-16 | Frank McNamara | ec2sc1@comcast.net |

**Dues Payment - make checks out to YAGRS ASSOCIATION
mail to Armand Lamarche, Treasurer, 3 Finnway St., North Billerica MA 01862**

Dues are \$17 per year. The current membership year ends May 31, 2015. The highlighted date on your address label is the date your membership is current to. If that date is **5/31/14** or earlier, please update your membership by making a dues payment. Upon dues payment, you will receive a new membership card and crew list. Please complete the information below and send with dues payment. You may pay for more than one year.

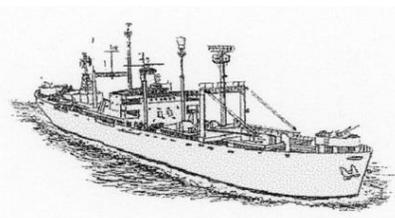
Name: _____ Ship: _____

Address: _____

amount enclosed: _____ Phone: _____ email: _____

SEA STORIES

send your sea stories to
mel.harder@snet.net



submitted by Reggie Walker, RM3, USS Guardian AGR-1, 1956-58

I served on the Guardian from early 1956 to end of 1958 on a kitty cruise. for what it is worth here is my story as i recall it... we were on station when sitting at the supervisors desk I hear dit dit dit dah dah dah dit dit dit on 500 kc. As it came the second time I jumped up and got to a station and immediately told one of my seamen to turn on and tune up the SRT transmitter. From what i could figure, we were the only one to hear the message coming in from the Andrea d Orea. I'm sure most can remember it off the coast of Massachusetts. As we were actually the closest ship to her but having a top speed of only about 8 knots it was determined not to go to the rescue so instead I contacted other ships in the vicinity and relayed her co-ordinates to them. Shortly afterwards those ships were able to establish contact with the Andrea d Orea.....end of my story.



After many years I found it gave me the satisfaction of knowing that my service in our US Navy was very worth while. We were young and did a proud service to our country (if I may be melodramatic). To this very day I have no regrets and cherish the fact that I was able to belong to a proud service. I often think of some of my shipmates and smile at the good old days as the curtain is drawing near. I hope all the members of our organization here are well and comfortable.....

From: Richard W. Phelps, RD2, USS Searcher AGR 4, 1959-62

If my memory serves me it was December 1959 on my first cruise on the USS Searcher. I was a seaman apprentice serving as a radarman after finishing school in Norfolk. Sometime ten to 15 days prior to Christmas the ship while on station in the North Atlantic was engulfed in a rather severe storm. Two things happened during the storm that I shall always remember. Those who served on these ships remember that the stern during heavy weather would go under while riding the heavy seas. Well being a young (19) year old sailor I and one other person were standing on the fantail next to the aft gun enjoying the ups and downs. Suddenly the fantail went under and my friend and I were in the water thinking that this is how life ends. To our good fortune we were tangled in the various parts of the large gun and survived the dunking without being washed overboard. An hour later we were summoned to the Captains cabin and given a strong lecture on staying off the main deck when the ship was riding out a storm. What we did not know was that there had been no announcement to stay clear of the main deck, which was most likely an oversight, which had we perished would have led to a problem for the CO.



As if this was not enough the next day the USS Searcher lost its prop and wallowed in heavy seas until an ocean going tug arrived and towed us to Boston for repairs. If I recall we were back on station before Christmas.

YAGR Books Available - from Joe Maurer, USS Vigil

YAGR'S BOOK ORDER

Glue Bound Book (\$19.00 each - Tax and Postage Incl.)

No. Ordered _____ Total Amt. Due _____

Name _____

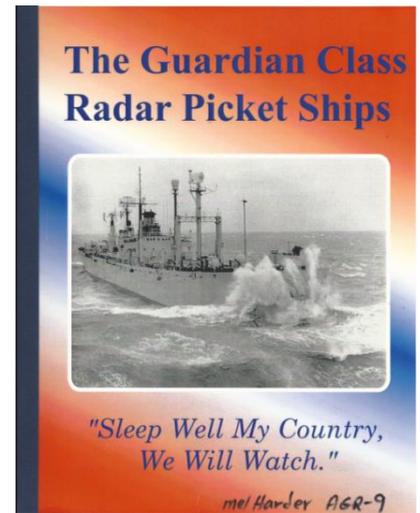
Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

Detach and keep for receipt:

Paid to: Joe Maurer, 2127 S. Bristol Drive, Marblehead, Ohio 43440

E-mail: runinmuck@yahoo.com



Charleston YAGRS REUNION Ladies Breakfast

The Veterans Hospital of Charleston is the chosen charity for 2015 for those who would like to contribute. The hospital has a clinic as well as a hospital. The US government will not pay for things like coffee and snacks for the waiting room and snacks for between meals. Also sometimes there are small children that accompany the Veteran to the appointment. Donations like small hand held games, small stuffed animals, coloring books and crayons would go a long way to keep the children occupied. The hospital also services a number of homeless veterans. They try to help them with things like clean underwear and socks, sometimes a warm hoody or inexpensive shoes. The hospital relies on donations to provide these comforts to the homeless Vets.

For those ladies who fly to the reunion, but would still like to contribute, small denomination prepaid credit cards or prepaid phone cards are a help, not to exceed \$15. The Veteran can use these to buy gas to get to their medical appointment or a meal at a fast food restaurant.

ALL ITEMS DONATED MUST BE NEW, NEVER USED, IN ORIGINAL PACKAGES AND/OR THE TAGS STILL ATTACHED. Because the articles will be going to a hospital, used items cannot be accepted. The following is taken from the hospital's web site:

Non-cash contributions are used to make the patients' stay more enjoyable. Items which are accepted include —

- magazines and paperback books
- coffee and store-bought cookies
- new undergarments
- new sweat shirts and sweat pants
- new inexpensive shoes (running or loafers)
- reading glasses
- backpacks
- bus tickets or local bus passes (CARTA, Chatham county, etc.)
- small denomination (\$5-\$10) grocery store, gas station, or department store
- gift cards for Veterans getting housed after homelessness and other “tide over” purchases

The breakfast contest theme will be SOUTHERN BELLE. What is your interpretation of a Southern Belle? Dress as you wish to show us. Do you see her as Scarlet O'Hara from GONE WITH THE WIND? Or do you see her as Daisy Duke, Ellie Mae Clampet, or Granny? It is wide open for you to show your imagination.

Pat Reichling will be the moderator for the ladies breakfast. Pat McBride and the ladies of the USS Protector will handle the auction. Pat has volunteered to deliver any donations collected to the hospital.

Charleston SC Reunion and Hotel Registration Details

Charleston Plaza Hotel
4770 Goer Drive
North Charleston, SC 29406

YAGR'S has a block of 75 rooms at the Charleston Plaza for the dates April 30, May 1 & May 2 2015 at the rate of \$100/night. The rate is good for three days 'pre' & 'post' reunion dates. Cut off date for registration is March 29, 2015.

Charleston Plaza Registration Procedure

Call 843-747-1900 or 888-747-1900 and ask for the sales department. This bypasses the central reservation hub and processes the reservation directly from the hotel. For problems registering contact Brian Forrester (YAGR reunion planner) at 480-998-1112 or 800-998-1228.



Transportation: After retrieval of luggage at the airport, contact the hotel at 888-747-1900 for the shuttle.

Welcome to the Charleston Plaza Hotel. Located just minutes from the heart of Charleston. Spend the day touring all that Charleston has to offer and return to enjoy a relaxing evening of cocktails and delicious entrees in our on-site restaurant and bar, Monikers. Stay on track with your workout routine in our state of the art 24/7 fitness center featuring Life Fitness equipment. Nothing beats enjoying the Charleston sun like rejuvenating by our seasonal outdoor or indoor pool. Our hotel offers complimentary parking and transportation to and from the Charleston airport. Free shuttle service is available within 2 miles of the hotel which includes the Tanger Outlets and the Charleston historic district. Free Wi-Fi is available in all public spaces and guest rooms in addition to our business center to keep you connected while you are away. Printing and fax service is also available for your use. Welcome to your home away from home. We hope to see you soon at the Charleston Plaza Hotel.

HOTEL DETAILS

Check-in: 4:00pm Check-out: 12:00pm
Complimentary on-site parking
8 floors, 289 rooms, 8 suites, 14 Meeting rooms.
This hotel has a smoke-free policy.
24/7 Fitness Center
Indoor and seasonal outdoor swimming pool.

General Room Amenities

Air conditioning
Coffee maker/tea service
Electrical adapters
Individual climate control
Iron and ironing board
Flat screen television & major cable channels
Work desk w/wireless Internet (complimentary)

Dining - Monikers Restaurant & Bar

Southern/American Cuisine
Open for breakfast and dinner

Local Attractions

H.L. Hunley
Magnolia Plantation & Gardens
Tanger Outlets
Downtown Charleston & historic City Market
Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum
Riverfront Park North Charleston Coliseum & Performing Arts Center

Accessibility

Fully accessible guest rooms available
Main entrance & registration desk accessible
Hotel has on site accessible self-parking
Meeting spaces are all accessible
Restaurants and lounges are all accessible

EVENTS AND SCHEDULE
YAGR'S 20th REUNION, CHARLESTON SC

Pre-Reunion Tour - Spirit of Carolina Dinner Cruise
Tuesday, April 28, 2015

cost: \$95/person
6:15 pm - leave hotel
10:00 pm - end at hotel



Cruise Charleston's beautiful harbor by moonlight aboard the 100' luxury yacht *Spirit of Carolina*. During this unforgettable three hour cruise, enjoy the beautiful sights of the harbor as well as a delicious four course dinner with tableside service and live entertainment. Step out on the deck and experience the breathtaking views of the sunset over the Charleston skyline during this relaxing evening on the water.

Dinner Menu - Charleston She-Crab Soup

Spirit Signature Salad with assorted port wine vinaigrette
choice of beef, seafood, chicken or vegetarian entrée
chef's selection of potatoes, rice, fresh seasonal vegetables
freshly baked breads with sweet cream butter
pecan pie
coffee, tea or decaf

Entrée choices can be made at the table. Alcoholic beverages and optional desert menus are on you own.

Pre-Reunion Tour - The Confederate Submarine the Hunley and Fort Sumter
Wednesday, April 29, 2015

cost: \$95/person
9:15 am - leave hotel
12:00 pm - bag lunch aboard the Spirit of Charleston
2:45 pm - end at hotel

On February 17, 1864 the Confederate Submarine H.L. Hunley sank the union warship Housatonic in Charleston Harbor by ramming it. After this successful foray, she also sank with all of her crew to the bottom of the Atlantic where she remained until August 8, 2000. On this Auspicious day after months of planning and work by archeologists from the state and National Park Service, divers and marine engineers, the Hunley was successfully raised and taken to a special tank at the Warren Lasch Conservation Center in North Charleston. On this tour we will have the opportunity to view this 19th century marvel as the archeologists continue their research and stabilize the boat. After our visit to the



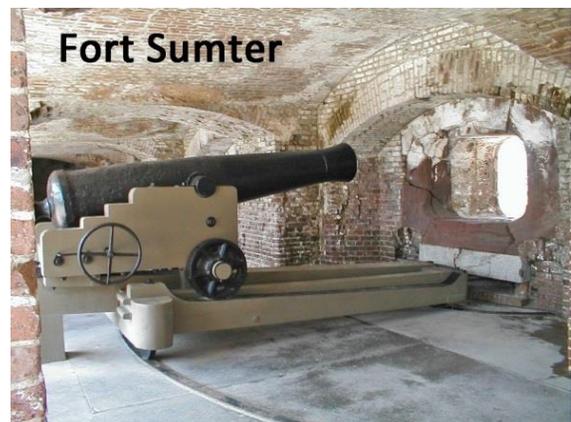
Confederate submarine H. L. Hunley



Hunley we will continue on to Liberty Square where we will board the Spirit of Charleston for our tour of Fort Sumter. As you cruise through Charleston Harbor you will view beautiful homes along the Battery and view dolphins at play in the harbor. Upon arrival at For Sumter, where the first shot of the Civil War was fired, National Park Service rangers will give us an informative introduction before we begin our tour of this famous bastion and its marvelous museum.

Thursday, April 30, 2015

12:00 noon: Hospitality Room opens
Reunion registration opens



Fort Sumter

cont.

events & schedule cont.

Reunion Tour - Fort Moultrie and Boone Hall Plantation

Friday, May 1, 2015

cost: included in reunion registration fee

8:30 am - leave hotel

1:00 pm - end at hotel

We begin our visit to Fort Moultrie by viewing a film which depicts the history of the fort. After the film a National Park Service ranger will take us on a brief tour of the fort, which began life as a simple fort built of Palmetto logs and sand, from which Revolutionary soldiers under the leadership of Col. William Moultrie repulsed a British fleet on June 28, 1776. The fort remained active until 1947 and is one of the more interesting forts on the eastern seaboard. We will continue on to Boone Hall Plantation, which was used in the filming of the television miniseries *North and South*, *Queen*, and for the background filming in *Gone With the Wind*. Tour the lovely Colonial Revival Plantation House, the slave quarters built from brick made on the plantation in the 1800's and watch the flower ladies making sweetgrass baskets.

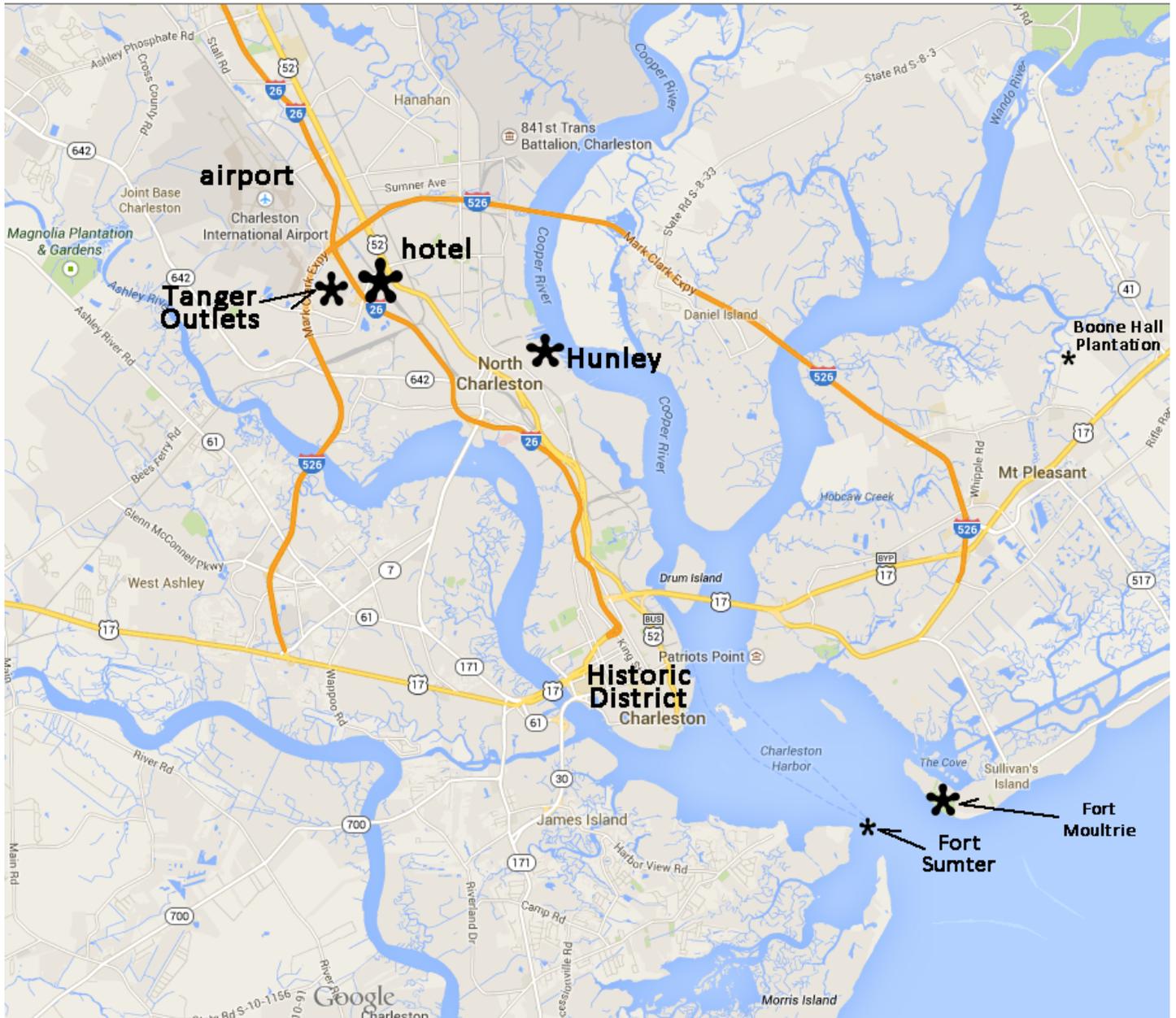


Saturday, May 2, 2015

9:00 am - Men's Business Meeting

9:00 am - Ladies Breakfast

6:00 pm - No host cocktails and banquet with DJ music



Registration Form

YAGR'S 20th Annual Reunion - Charleston SC

April 30, May 1 & 2, 2015

Return completed registration and check as soon as possible **but no later than March 29, 2015**. Make checks out to YAGR'S. Mail to YAGR'S treasurer Armand Lamarche, 3 Finnway St., North Billerica MA 01862. Print exactly as you want your name to appear on your name tag. Also, indicate your choice of meat, chicken or fish for the Saturday evening banquet.

Name: _____ banquet choice: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____ banquet choice: _____

Additional Guest(s) _____ banquet choice: _____

Ship: _____

Reunion Registration: Thurs. April 30 - Sat. May 2 2015			
	cost/person	# of people	total
Includes Fri. May 1 tour & Sat. eve banquet			
dues paying member, spouse or one guest	\$90.00		\$
non-dues paying member	\$107.00		\$
Additional Guest (s)	\$107.00		\$
pre-reunion tour - Tues. April 28			
	cost/person	# of people	total
Dinner Cruise	\$95.00		\$
names of people on tour			
pre-reunion tour - Wed. April 29			
	cost/person	# of people	total
Ft. Sumter & Hunley visit	\$95.00		\$
names of people on tour			
total amount due			\$

REUNION SHIRTS	# of shirts	X cost/shirt
small @ \$20 each		
medium @ \$20 each		
large @ \$20 each		
X- large @ \$20 each		
XX- large @ \$22 each		
If not attending reunion, add \$5 for shipping		
total for all shirts		