

# USS COLONIAL LSD-18 ASSOCIATION

## HISTORY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE ASSOCIATION:

In 1985, Vernon Kinchen advertised to find persons who had served on the USS Colonial. He received about 7 or 8 names but didn't follow up on trying to get them together. Then in early 1991, Al Hypsha advertised about getting the group together. Vernon Kinchen sent him the names he had received and others probably did also. Those who knew how to contact others did. Therefore, Al Hypsha was instrumental in putting the first group together. Thirty-one guys attended.

The 1st meeting was held in September, 1991 at the Ramada Inn in Wichita, KS, the hometown of Al Hypsha.

Those present were: Al Hypsha, Murray Evans, Ronald Gott, Bill Jenkerson, George Lievense, Ed Loeppke, Jack Semenko, William DeGerlia, James Roberts, Ron Rousseau, John McCain, Ron Staats, Vernon Kinchen, Adolphe Steppe, George Hoar, James Rector, Charles Dupslaff, John Binion, Jim Tillman, Ronald Crawford, Richard Brown, Burt Teigen, Bill Pohlenz, Bob Wozniak, Ron Wingo, Ernst Dickey, Adrian Hatzenberger, Leonard Fritz, Duke Hammer, Richard Fitzgerald and Lyle Rakness.

Attending with Spouses: Ron Rousseau & Rose, Ed Loeppke & Fran, Lyle Rakness & Pat, Jack Semenko & Kathryn, William DeGerlia & Norma, Bill Jenkerson & Katherine, George Lievense & Doris, John McCain & Louise, George Hoar & Betty, James Rector & Melba, Dick Brown & Jean; Burt Teigen & Joan, Bill Pohlenz & Merlene, Bob Wozniak & Marie, Ron Wingo & Janice, & Ernst Dickey & Suzi.

At the meeting, the organization got off the ground. Officers were elected- President, George Lievense; Vice President, Vernon Kinchen; & Secretary-Treasurer, Ron Rousseau. Ron Wingo was voted storekeeper for the USS Colonial.

A few years later, the USS Colonial filed their Constitution & By-Laws & filed with the IRS for E.I.N.

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