

LEE'S SHADOW

THE REBEL YELL

USS ROBERT E. LEE (SSBN/SSN-601)

www.ssbn601.org Vol. 2026-2

President Message

We completed a successful 18th reunion of the Lee Association on September 27th and for all of you that attended thanks for making this a wonderful event. We experienced some of the best weather imaginable and the location right on the Waterfront in Bremerton couldn't of been a better place to meet and experience the location of the last days of our beloved boat. The speaker John Linstead brought to life the history of Admiral Rickover and how he guided the Navy through the development of the nuclear submarine service. We also had an opportunity to go out in harbor on a sailboat with our fellow submariner Paul Lowe. He was gracious enough to take groups out on his sailboat. It was an experience to see the Puget Sound Shipyard from the sailboat and see 9 nuclear subs waiting to be recycled.

The banquet was on the third floor of the KITSAP conference center and gave us a wonderful and scenic view of the waterfront and the USS Tuner Joy that is a floating museum. The last night at the Horse and Cow Bar and Grill was a fitting end of the reunion event with food and drinks and opportunity to continue to visit with each other on our final evening. We had a signed color picture of the Robert E. Lee donated to the Horse & Cow to be displayed among hundreds of other memorabilia from

Submarines. It was one of the better reunions and the group that came were fantastic and all willing to help and make this a reunion one we will all remember.

<u>What's next:</u>

As you all probably know by now, the next reunion will be in Oklahoma City (my back yard), and from all accounts this will be a location that a lot of our members have never been to so I'm excited to set this up. Just for a little bit of appetite to what to expect, here are a few things to look forward to:

- **Oklahoma City Memorial (In downtown OKC), the location of the Murray Federal Building bombing in 1995.**
- **The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. Established in 1955, the museum has welcomed millions of visitors to explore the enduring legacy of the American West. https://nationalcowboymueum.org**
- **Brick Town is Oklahoma City's original warehouse district turned premier entertainment district, featuring over 45 restaurants, bars, shops and cultural attractions along with a scenic, mile-long canal. Enjoy a 40 minute narrated water taxi tour or stroll along the paved walkways of the Bricktown River Walk Park.**
- **USS Oklahoma City (SSN723) Memorial Park. (currently under construction but planned completion is early 2027). The sail and rudder of the USS OKC (SSN723) on display.**
- **In 2028 the Olympics will be holding their water sports in downtown OKC and the girls Olympic softball will be played in OKC.**

- **The Oklahoma City Thunder NBA (2025 NBA Champions will be moving into their new One Billion dollard complex in last 2028 just in time for our reunion.**
- **The LA Dodger AAA team plays their home games in Bricktown.**

This is a small sample of things to do in Oklahoma City and that's not evening mentioning how easy it is to get in and out of Will Rogers International Airport that is only a few miles from downtown OKC. We expect a lot of our membership will be within driving distance and will want to take advantage of other things to see in the great Sooner State.

Mark your calendars for fall of 2028 to make OKC a destination.

Your President,

Joe White

Joe White-President

405-410-9206

Joewhite727@gmail.com

Dale Thompson-Secretary/Treasurer

209-324-4654

Dale_Thompson@msn.com

Bryan Ersek-Vice president

610-764-1074

Bryanersek@verizon.net