

Wilson
Box 43
Folder 29
Memorials: USS San Diego
1958-1960

A large collection of letters, the ship's history, b & w. photos & office notes. These materials are not filed in an organized chronological fashion. **Some selected examples are:** stapled packet containing a letter (24 Mar 1959) from Captain F. Kent Loomis (USN Ret.) – Asst. Dir. of Naval History, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations & enclosed copies of “a history of the USS SAN DIEGO (CL 53)” – 8 pages each & “Addendum To History of USS SAN DIEGO (CL 82)” – 3 pages; b & w 8 ½ photo of USS SAN DIEGO; copies of two letters (3/17/59) from Congressman Wilson to RAdm. K. M. McManes (Asst. Vice Chief of Naval Operations) re/ “Thank you for sending me the information about relics and mementos from the cruiser USS SAN DIEGO;” 2 letters (3/24/59) from Ambrose H. Redmond (Secretary, Branch No. Nine, Inc., Fleet Reserve Assoc.) to Wilson & to the CNO, Dept. of the Navy re/ Scrapping of USS SAN DIEGO (CLA-53) & request for commissioning name plate; copies of letters (3/16/59) from Wilson to several local branches of the Fleet Reserve Assn. re/ “the valiant old cruiser USS SAN DIEGO, is soon to be scrapped. . . . such items as anchors, engine order telegraph, sidelights, steering wheels. . . .will be obtainable on request from bona fide organizations;” a letter (3/16/59) from Wilson to Donald Driese (San Diego Historical Society) re/ items available from the USS SAN DIEGO; a letter (3/6/50) from RAdm. McManes to Wilson re/ instructions for requests for relics from the SAN DIEGO; copy of “OPNAV INSTRUCTIONS 4560” (3/13/59) – “Subj: Relics to be removed from ships being sold or scrapped . . . Encl: (1) List A. Relics to be removed from all ships (2) List B. Relics to be removed from ships if surplus and if specific requests are in hand;” letter (5/14/59) from Commander Bremerton Group, Pacific Reserve Fleet to Curator for the Dept. of the Navy re/ relics to be removed from BB-45, BB 48 and CLAA 53; a letter (3/24/59) from E. M. Stanley (President, National City Chamber of Commerce) & Wilson's reply (4/8/59) re/ request for souvenirs from the USS SAN DIEGO & a “Program [for] National City's 2nd Annual ‘Salute To Navy Week’” – 10/25 – 10/31; copy of a letter (9/14/59) from Cmdr. R. E. Mereness (Asst. for Information, 11th Naval Dist., San Diego) to RAdm. E. M. Eller (Dir. of Naval History) re/ The interest of the City of San Diego in developing a Navy and Maritime Museum; letters (Aug.-Sept. 1959) from Wilson & Lt. Col. J.N.M Berger, Ret. (La Jolla Chapter, The Military Order of the World Wars) re/ “plans for a real big patriotic celebration . . . to honor the Navy on 27 October 1959 Teddy Roosevelt's birthday” & “NASSCO will design and build” a platform to mount the relics and stuff from the USS SAN DIEGO; stapled packet containing letters (Nov. 1958-Feb. 1959) re/ “The project of exhibiting the model of the USS SAN DIEGO here has caught on like wildfire. Ralph Phillips of the SDG&E and Frank Forward [Pres. Union Title Insurance Co.] are guaranteeing the shipment;” a letter (8/18/60) from Cmdr. R. H. Mereness & Wilson's reply (9/30/60), & enclosed b & w 8 ½ photo showing the model & 4 viewers & photocopies of news stories on this event; office note (7/20/60) & letters (7/18 & 7/25/60) re/ information concerning the naming of another cruiser THE USS SAN DIEGO.