

SCUTTLEBUTT

A Quarterly Newsletter

December 2012



USS Gambier Bay/VC-10 Survivors at 2012 Brookfield, WI Reunion

Seated left to right-George Legath, Aaron Shelsman, Carl Amundson, Clete Ring & Fred Grabos.

Standing left to right-George Feliz, Norman St Germain, Dean Moel & Ed Hagerty.

This was quite a reunion! We lucked out with some sunshine, no snow and a beautiful Sheraton Hotel in Brookfield to host the activities. We had a nice hospitality room where we hung the Gambier Bay Banner.

We were blessed to have nine survivors make it to the reunion. Thank you to the families for bringing them. We were happy to see George & Gail Legath and to meet Aaron Shelsman and Clete ring and their families.

There were number of newcomers to the reunion this year. Two in particular were June and Tino Patti who brought an album of pictures of her Uncle (James Holland-KIA). We gave them a framed lithograph of "Freedom's Cost" at the banquet.

Presidents Corner

WOW, what a fabulous time we had in Brookfield, Wisconsin. We had nine survivors in attendance, many who had not been to a recent reunion.. It was such a pleasure to meet new survivors and family members!

We had two days of wonderful excursions – on our first day we took a city tour and the second day was our most popular tour – The Saints and Sinners tour!

We had such a successful turnout and delicious food at our dinner banquet, plus our raffle was a humongous success. The raffle fundraiser is a tremendous way for the Association to supplement our finances. At our Wisconsin reunion we made \$495 from the raffle. We had a tremendous amount of support in both the donation of fabulous items and in the sale of our tickets. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN THE DONATION OF GIFTS AND IN YOUR TICKET PURCHASES.

I am not sure I can put into words how touching our memorial service was this year. I don't think there was a dry eye in the place! Our guests were the Honorable Steven Ponto, Mayor of Brookfield, whose father served on the St. Lo. Mayor Ponto presented us with a City proclamation and we also received a proclamation from the County and State of Wisconsin. Also in attendance were Dan Vrakus, Waukesha County Executive, Dan Toomey from the Honor Flight Network, Representative Dale Kooyenga (14th Assembly District) who is also in the Army Reserve, Candee Arndt from the Navy League and a number of their members.

Those that participated in the memorial service were the Navy Great Lakes Bugler, Lucas Pawloski, the color guard from St. John's Northwestern Military Academy, 1st Lt. Joseph Short, Chaplain Candidate, Wisconsin Army National Guard, and Jenny Thiel, the vocalist who had such an amazing voice. The eulogy this year was composed by Ashlee Heint and Mark Heint and in addition, Rita Heint remembered Charlie with her eulogy. You can read both eulogies on our website (www.ussgambierbay.org)

The Association was blessed to be put in contact with Rick Stewart, who did a documentary (NRA Life of Duty) on the Gambier Bay which featured our very own Norman St. Germain and Fred Grabos. One of the unexpected highlights in the documentary was the input from Ed Adams, a neighbor of Fred's. Ed was on one of the rescue ships that picked up our survivors in the water! If you would like a copy of the documentary please see the enclosed order form (the cost is \$10 which includes shipping).

Our Reunion Committee has finalized the location for our 2013 reunion and we will be traveling to **Tucson, Arizona from October 23-27, 2013**. More information will be forthcoming in our next Scuttlebutt. If you would like to volunteer with planning our excursions or helping with the dinner banquet or memorial service, please contact Marlene Hughes. There is a tremendous amount of behind the scenes work done by our Reunion Committee and any assistance you can offer would be greatly appreciated!

At our 2013 reunion we will have not only our Board of Governors meeting but also our membership meeting. Everyone is encouraged to attend both meetings so you can stay abreast of how your Association is growing and doing business. A new slate of your Board members and Governors will be presented at the membership meeting for your approval. If you are interested in a position on the Board (President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer) or being a Governor, please contact either myself at pk_grond@yahoo.com or Chris Stammen, our Vice President, at cstammen@embarqmail.com. As long as you are a member of the Association, all survivors, widows, and family members are eligible to become a Board member or Governor. As the 2013 reunion approaches we will form a nominating committee and task them to bring a slate of officers to the membership meeting for your vote. Another item for our agenda will be the discussion of our 2014 Reunion, which will be the 70th anniversary of the sinking of the ship. We hope to announce a location for this memorable reunion at our membership meeting in Tucson.

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support to the Association.

Paula (LaRocco) Grond



SCUTTLEBUTT PUBLICATION EMAIL OPTION

The Association is offering you the option of having your Scuttlebutt newsletter **emailed directly to you**. This feature will allow you to receive your publication in a more efficient and timely manner. The email option will help the Association to also “go green” and it will be more cost-effective to our finances.

If you would like to receive your Scuttlebutt newsletter via email, please send your request to Marlene at mahome@cox.net (that way she will have your current email address).

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS - SCUTTLEBUTT DONATIONS

Lifetime membership for survivors and widows is offered at no charge. As many of you know our membership application fees and our Scuttlebutt donations help tremendously with all the costs associated with the publication.

We would love to see our many, many second generation family members become part of the USS Gambier membership! Please help us support not only the publication of the Scuttlebutt but the Association as well by sending in your membership application today!

SHIP'S STORE

Please check out all of our fabulous USS Gambier Bay merchandise and memorabilia in our ship's store. All merchandise prices include the shipping cost. We now have in stock a limited number of The Men of the USS Gambier Bay books, as well as The Last Tin Can Sailor book, note cards, computer mouse pads, I Love the Men of the USS Gambier Bay button pins, Life of Duty (NRA documentary DVD), and copies of the Freedom's Cost lithograph. Plus, our newest item - - which is just for the ladies - - the **USS Gambier Bay black BLING shirt**.

If you are interested in your very own women's USS Gambier Bay BLING shirt, please see the order form (and photo) inside.



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NEEDED TO CONTINUE OUR ASSOCIATION AN PUBLICATION. PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN!!

SURVIVORS DO NOT OWE DUES

THE DUES ARE \$15.00 ANNUALLY OR \$100.00 FOR A LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP.

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE OF THE NUMBERED OPTIONS BELOW.

1. ENCLOSED IS \$15.00 FOR A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE SCUTTLEBUTT.
2. ENCLOSED IS \$100.00 FOR A LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP.
3. I CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY FOR A SUBSCRIPTION AT THIS TIME. PLEASE KEEP ME ON THE MAILING LIST.
4. YOUR SHIPMATE OR SQUADRON MATE HAS PASSED AWAY. PLEASE KEEP ME ON THE MAILING LIST.
5. PLEASE REMOVE MY NAME FROM YOUR MAILING LIST.
6. PLEASE *E-MAIL THE SCUTTLEBUTT TO ME (INCLUDE E-MAIL BELOW) TO SAVE \$\$*

NAME _____ \$ _____ CK# _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

ST _____ ZIP _____ PHONE# _____ FAX# _____

RANK/RATE _____ DIV _____ E-MAIL _____

SPOUSE'S NAME _____

PLEASE SEND TO:

MARLENE HUGHES, TREASURER
USS GAMBIER BAY/VC-10 ASSOCIATION
2228 E GREENLEE RD
TUCSON, AZ 85719-2012

**ANY ADDITIONAL MONEY WILL BE CONSIDERED A DONATION
AND GREATLY APPRECIATED!!**

In Memoriam

Shipmates who have crossed the Bar

Cunningham "Ellis" Barham 11/30/23-11/2/12

Ellis Barham, 88, passed away on November 3, 2012 at St. Joseph Hospital. He was born on November 30, 1923, in Columbus, Mississippi, one of six children born to Clarence Eugene Barham and Georgia Rose Miller Barham.

At age 18 he joined the Navy to fight in [WWII](#). He served as a aviation machinist's Mate Third Class and survived the sinking of the U.S.S. Gambier Bay during the infamous Battle of Leyte Gulf.

He went on to achieve a master's in Psychiatric Social Work from Louisiana State University in 1952, going on to serve in various governmental positions where he enjoyed his work advocating for basic resources and conditions necessary for health. Upon retirement in 1989 he had spent 20 years with the U.S. Public Health Service. His last several years were spent as a Program Officer for a number of community health centers in region 7, including writing and managing grants to provide healthcare for migrant workers. Additionally, at the local and state level, he worked to provide maternal and child health services for rural Missourians.

While working for the V.A. in Knoxville, Iowa, he met and married his beloved wife Mary Louise Shultz. In the next 16 years, jobs took them to Indiana, Arkansas, and Texas. Through those years, they were blessed with son, Paul David, and daughter, Martha Louise. Ellis' final job settled them in Gladstone, Missouri, where they lived for 39 years until 2008, when they relocated to Kingswood Senior Living Community in south Kansas City.

In retirement, Ellis enjoyed good books, nature, good food, and the company of family and friends. He especially enjoyed being "Gramps" to his grandson and, in recent years, to his great grandsons. Throughout his life he did what he could do to help others. He advocated for mental and physical health for the young, old, women, and disadvantaged. His kindness, humor, and love of a good joke will be greatly missed.

Ellis was preceded in death by brother, Paul Barham (Columbus, MS), and sister, Elizabeth Solomon (Starkville, MS).

Survivors include his wife of nearly 59 years, Mary Barham; children, Paul Barham (Gail) and Martha "Marty" Galutia (Gary); grandson, Michael Galutia (Julie) and their two sons, Gavin and Gage, all of the Kansas City area; brothers, C. E. "Gene" Barham, Jr. (Jackson, MS) and Walter B. Barham (Hattiesburg, MS); sister, G. Rose Jennings (Albuquerque, NM).

As an extension of his life-long interest in science, he donated his body to research for the benefit of others. A memorial service will be held at 2 pm Sunday, November 11, at Kingswood Senior Living Community, 10000 Wornall Road, KCMO. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to All Souls Unitarian Church (KC) or the Essential Tremor Foundation.



Board of Governors & Officers 2011-2013

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E-Mail: heintl_22@hotmail.com

In Appreciation

Thank you to all the names listed for your donation, buying from the ship's store, subscription or lifetime membership. All of this helps the association spread the word about that fateful day on October 25, 1944.

Barbara Tanaka	Ed Hagerty	Chris Stammen	Nancy Shlesman	Susan Turner
Tom Westbrook	Clete Ring	Tracey Heckler	Jeanette Hall	Dan Toomey
Andy Ramirez	June Patti	Linda Shimerda	Susan Koser	Lucille Gutzwiler
Marlene Hughes	Candee Arndt	Sandy Heintl	Nancy Poncer	John Holland
Amy Bulgatz	Norman Loats	Lupe Berlanga	Chris Shelvik	Mary Fox
Chris Martin	William Lemorande		Susan Davidson	John Hagerty
Margaret Nicholes	Susan Bagen	Rita Heintl	Susan Biernat	Paula Grond
Mike Pyzdrowski	Gail Byrne			
George & Gail Legath				
George Feliz				
Norman St Germain				



SHIP'S STORE

WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN OUR INVENTORY:

PRINTS OF FREEDOM'S COST	\$55.00 w/shipping
LIFE OF DUTY (NRA documentary DVD) of Norm St Germain	\$10.00w/shipping
USS GAMBIER BAY Hats (1 in black 12 in Navy)	\$25.00 w/shipping
USS GAMBIER BAY Pewter Lapel Pin (14)	\$8.00 w/shipping
USS GAMBIER BAY 2009 Button Pin (see below) (14)	\$2.00 w/shipping
USS GAMBIER BAY Mouse Pad (see below) (24)	\$10.00 w/shipping
USS GAMBIER BAY Luggage Tag (see below) (20)	\$7.00 w/shipping
USS GAMBIER BAY Coffee Mug (see below)	\$10.00 w/shipping
USS Gambier BAY Polo Shirt (see below) (5)	\$30.00 w/shipping

The polo shirts are embroidered and come in Men's & Ladies sizes S,M,L,XL-XXL is \$1.50 more Color is Navy Blue with Yellow Embroidery. These take couple of weeks to get in once ordered.



I Love the Men Of the Gambier Bay Button (37 left)

2 1/4 inches in circumference

\$3.00 each includes shipping

SHIP'S STORE CONTINUED:



I was able to order more of these t-shirts which are pre-shrunk. However they are charcoal color with the name of the ship & October 25, 1944, Battle of Leyte Gulf on the left sleeve.

Price is \$20 w/shipping

2- XL 2- Large left

New items in ship's store:



USS Gambier Bay Note Cards

These are blank note cards come w/envelopes. They measure 5 1/2 X 4 1/4 inches.

Package of 12 for \$10.50 includes shipping

They feature "Freedom's Cost"

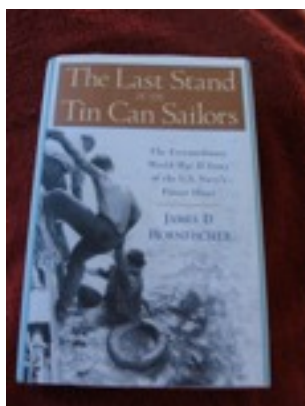


USS Gambier Bay Memo Pads

These memo pads have the name of the association along with our website name.

They measure 5 1/2 x 4 1/4 inches

Package of 5 for \$1.50 includes shipping



We have one last book of The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors- \$25 w/ shipping

We were able to get 19 hardback "The Men of the Gambier Bay" books which have the crew list printed inside. They are new and wrapped. \$40.00 w/shipping

SHIP'S STORE CONTINUED:

Ladies, thanks to Paula we can order a USS Gambier Bay bling shirt. They come short sleeved with either a scoop neck or a crew neck.

\$35.00 includes shipping-sizes are small-med-large-x-large

**** 2x & 3x large will be **\$38.00**w/shipping****



They have to be made to order so will take approximately 2 weeks.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Size _____ circle---scoop or crew neck

Please send orders w/check or money order for items in the ship store to

USS Gambier Bay/vc-10 Assoc.

E-mail-mahhome@cox.net

c/o Marlene Hughes

520-326-0747

Treasurer

2228 E Greenlee Rd

Tucson, AZ 85719-2012

Norm &

Looking at photo album brought by June & Tino Patti



Mail Call

Received from Jeanne Pyzdrowski

11/20/12

Dear Marlene,

I received your check for the books and want to thank you. I would have enjoyed going to the reunion, recent travels tired me out a bit so I had to decline. Michael said he had a good time especially talking with some of the survivors and their families.

I hope you, your husband and family have a blessed and joyous Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for living in the U.S.A. and pray God continues to watch over us and inspire our leaders.

Our family will get together here for Thanksgiving with a group of 22. They'll do the cooking!!! Take care and God Bless.

Jeanne

(Thanks Jeanne for the card and you are right we are lucky to live in the U.S.A.)

Received from Candee Arndt via e-mail *(she is part of the WI Navy League)*

11/4/12

(Candee was a great help to me with the memorial service so I sent her a thank you card)

Marlene,

How fun was that card to receive!!! You are more than welcome. It was my pleasure..... I was the lucky one in WI who got to help! My table is still talking about the wonderful ceremony, lunch and video. Know you have a lifelong friend in WI!

All my best to the survivors and their families forever!!! Candee

Received from the Chaplain Candidate who gave the prayers at the memorial service.

11/5/12

Thanks for the nice sentiments. It was an honor to be with all of you.

Blessings, 1st Lt. Joseph Short

Received from Susie Koser

August 2012

To Marlene:

My father (Douglas Koser) turned 87 on August 5th, he still is managing in a Assisted Living Center and walking without assistance. He was diagnosed with dementia , however his memories of the war & the USS Gambier Bay are still very real and can easily communicate the stories when asked. Please continue to send his subscription to the address on the enclosed application. Thank you, Susie Koser

(Thank you for the update on your Dad and I will continue to send his subscription)

Received this note via e-mail from Bud & Darlene Petitt

11/28/2012

We have been house bound for four months due to Darlene's major surgery to repair damage that was done to her colon from her radiation treatments in October of 2011. We are so grateful that everything has turned out well.

We were very thankful to receive all the well wishes from our Navy friends. While reading the notes it made us lonesome to think of all the good times we were missing.

We will be celebrating Christmas with our family. We wish all of you a blessed Christmas. We pray we will be able to see all of you at the next reunion in 2013.

God bless,

Bud and Darlene Petitt

(What good news to hear that you are on the mend Darlene, we missed you both at this years reunion

Mail call continued:

(If everyone remembers the letter we received from the gentleman in France who had bought survivor Aaron Shelsman's navy jacket-Aaron came to the reunion this year with his family and Paula sent him an e-mail and picture.)

De : Paula Grond <pk_grond@yahoo.com>
À : benoit chalhoub <ardavisroberson@yahoo.fr>
Envoyé le : Mardi 13 novembre 2012 20h08
Objet : USS Gambier Bay Survivor

Benoit,

How are you! Hello from the USA. I am just back from our USS Gambier Bay reunion and I wanted to share a photo Aaron Shlesman and myself with you. I told him I would be sending a photo of us to you so you could put his face/name to his jacket. It was such a wonderful story when you contacted me regarding him. We talked about it at the reunion and everyone was impressed.

Hope all is well with you!

Paula (below is Benoits's response)

From: benoit chalhoub <ardavisroberson@yahoo.fr>
Subject: Re: USS Gambier Bay Survivor
To: "Paula Grond" <pk_grond@yahoo.com>
Date: Sunday, November 18, 2012, 2:27 PM

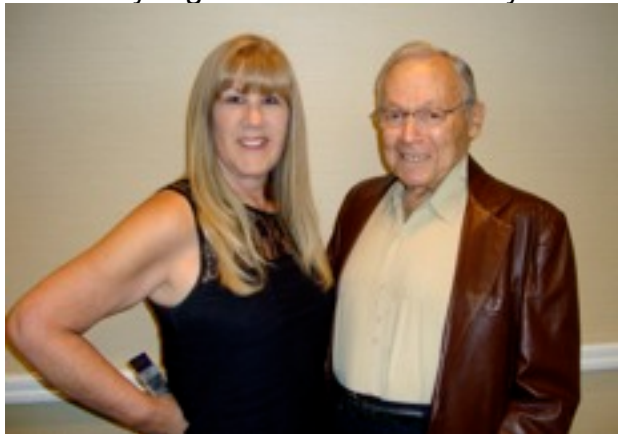
Hey Paula,

Thanks a lot for this beautiful picture! It's the first time I see a recent photo of Aaron Shlesman. He looks in a very good shape and you too! I'm very happy to share this incredible story with you two. It's the first time (in more than 10 years of collection) I managed to contact a veteran. I'm also very glad to know that you talk about it during your reunion. I currently try to reconstitute the uniform of a US Navy sailor during the Pacific war. I find that it is the best means to pay tribute to the fighters of the Gambier Bay. I hope all is well with you.

I finished my Business School last July and I currently work as a Human Resources consultant in a French public bank.

Have a good day!

Please send my regards to Aaron and all your family, Benoit



Picture of Paula and Aaron at the banquet.

**Received from Lupe Berlanga
July 2012**

Marlene: " Rocky" has been at the Audie Murphy Hospital Center in San Antonio for 2 years but he still wants to read the Scuttlebutt, so please send it to me and I will take it to him. (Thanks Lupe for the donation and send our best to Rocky)

Mail Call Continued:

Received from Chris Shelvik

7/6/12

Hi Marlene,

It was nice to receive the Scuttlebut and hear some of the things you people do. Will send you some money so I can still keep getting it. Was nice to see the story on Norm St Germain- he along with George Feliz and Buz Buckner came to one of our LCI Reunions in Reno several years ago. Buckner was one of the men we picked up of the nearly 200.

We winter in Yuma, so if we are there at the time we will try to make you're 2013 Reunion in Tucson.

Take Care and keep up the good work.

Chris Shelvik SM2/c

LCI "R" 337

(Thanks Chris-We certainly would love for you to make it)

Received from Tino & June Patti

11/27/12

Dear USS Gambier Bay Association.

Tino and I wish to thank you so very much for the wonderful reception that we received on our first reunion. Everyone was extremely friendly and gracious. The Milwaukee tours, luncheons, dinners, and just getting to know the survivors and families was the ultimate trip.

The honor bestowed on us by receiving the USS Gambier Bay Lithograph " Freedom's Cost" by Richard C. Moore was the highlight of the trip and is hanging in a place of honor.

We look forward to the trip to Tucson, AZ in October 2013.

Sincerely,

Tino and June Patt

(We are so happy you joined us this year and look forward to you both being part of the Gambier Bay Family)

From your Editor:

The reunion was a very successful and I am truly glad everyone had a good time. I am looking forward to everyone seeing my hometown of Tucson, AZ Oct 23rd-27th 2013.

In case you did not already know the Spa shooting which took place in Brookfield, WI on Oct 21st was about 200 yards from our hotel. My husband, Lucille Gutizwiler, Lauren Bagen-Buhl and myself were in the hospitaliy room when they decided to lock the back doors of the hotel. We decided the best thing was to leave and go to our room for the rest of the day. They found the shooter some 4 hours later in a room in the Spa





REUNION 2012



OUR HOTEL SIGN AND FRAMED LITHOGRAPH GIVEN TO US BY JOANNE SOSA OF THE USS ST LO

USS GAMBIER BAY 68th Anniversary

This turned out to be a wonderful reunion. The weather was great and the hotel was beautiful. We started with a welcome reception on Wednesday night with tasty tidbits and met some newcomers. On Thursday morning we took a tour

of Milwaukee and had lunch at the Brat House. That afternoon we had the governors meeting.

Our Saint & Sinners tour started at 9am checking out some very old churches and the old Pabst

Brewery. That night we had our banquet and raffle. The Memorial Service started at 11am on Saturday. We had lunch & showed a documentary of our own Norm St Germain & Fred Grabos-not a dry eye in the house. Very moving



MILWAUKEE MUSEUM OF ART



DEAN, ANDY & NORM



MARK & RITA HEINL

PHOTOS FROM THIS YEAR



< George Legath & Mayor Steve Ponto

Steve Heric tolling the bell at the service



< Jeannette Hall reading a poem at the service

Our Raffle Items in which we made \$495.00 >



Catching up with old friends!



Survivors, spouses and partners

PHOTOS FROM THIS YEAR



Fran Carlson & Carl Admundson enjoying the welcome reception



Lucille Gutzwiler finding out you get two beers for the price of you at the Brat House



Lauren Buhl, Margarety & Ed Hargerty, Shirley Turner & Bridget Hargerty having a sample of beer at the Pabst Brewery



Fred Grabos having his ice cream



Our three proclamations-city, county & state



Jenny Theil singing God Bless America

THE LATEST SCOOP FROM AROUND THE
“SCUTTLEBUTT”

RETURNS TO
MARLENE HUGHES
2228 E GREENLEE RD
TUCSON, AZ 85719-2012
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**To you and yours have a Blessed Holiday Season
and a Healthy & Happy New Year**



**Please like us on Facebook-
USS Gambier Bay**