

# SCUTTLEBUTT

*A Quarterly Newsletter*

*December 2017*



**Our Survivors at the Seattle Reunion holding the Quilt of Valor given to Lyndle Irick**

**Standing from left to right is Dean Moel and Norm St Germain**

**Seated left to right is Carl Amundson, George Feliz and Lyndle Irick (Seattle resident)**



## Presidents' Corner

Hello Gambier Bay Family!

What a great time we had in Seattle at our 2017 USS Gambier Bay/USS Kitkun Bay reunion. We reconnected with our survivors, friends, and family. This year we had quite a few family members attend for the first time, and we had Carl and Sherine Tully, who are neighbors of survivor Lyndle Irick (who lives in Seattle) bring him to the memorial service. As you know, traveling is not an easy task anymore and I just want to relay **A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ACCOMPANIED SURVIVORS TO THE REUNION**. We are so grateful to our family and friends who bring survivors to the reunions.

At our Board meeting it was discussed to streamline the way we send out our Scuttlebutt publication. It is a major expense for the Association to use the US Post Office to mail them out quarterly, and with so many of us having email we hope to **"Go Greener"** and discontinue mailing out the publication and have most everyone receive their Scuttlebutt publication via email. This benefits both you and the Association in many ways, you receive your Scuttlebutt publication much quicker than if we were to snail mail it, you can organize/file electronically and refer back to previous issues easily, and the most important is we are saving the Association a major expense. **PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL STILL OFFER THE US MAIL OPTION TO OUR SURVIVORS AND WIDOWS.** If you are receiving your Scuttlebutt publication via the US mail and have an email address, please help us Go Green (while saving postage costs) and email Marlene Hughes your email address at [mahome@cox.net](mailto:mahome@cox.net) so she can add you to our the distribution list. Our goal is to streamline by June 2018.

During our membership meeting we shared the following: 1) our ship's store has only eight Freedom's Cost Lithographs left in stock. Once these are gone we will not have any more available, 2) the 2017-19 elections for our Governing Board were held and I am so proud of all of our governors who have agreed to continue their service for the next two years, especially our survivors: Dean Moel and Norm St. Germain (you can find inside the listing/contact info for your Governing Board), and 3) I am excited to announce we have extended an invitation to all survivors, family, and friends of all the ships in Taffy 3 to join us in San Antonio, Texas for the 2018 Taffy 3 Reunion, hosted by the USS Gambier Bay and USS Kitkun Bay. We are in the final stages of securing all the details for our excursion, banquet, and memorial service. The final October 2018 dates will be announced soon on our website and Facebook page. Our excursion will be a day excursion to Fredericksburg to visit the National Museum of the Pacific War, Home of the Admiral Nimitz Museum, which has undergone a huge expansion since we were last in San Antonio in 2007.

Thank you to everyone who have contributed photos and stories for our website and for posting on our Facebook page. It is up to us, as second and third generation family members to continue to remember, honor, and recognize our husbands, fathers, sons, grandfathers, uncles, and friends. Our Facebook page has over 700 followers and it is a great way to inform/remind everyone to continue to check out our website and find out what is going on with the Gambier Bay Family. Social media is a great way for us to all stay connected. If you have any information, stories or photos you would like to share for the website, please email them to me in a jpg format at [pk\\_grond@yahoo.com](mailto:pk_grond@yahoo.com).

Thank you for continuing to support the Association. Our mission is to continue to honor, recognize, remember, and keep the memory alive of all who served on the USS Gambier Bay/VC-10.

I look forward to seeing everyone in 2018 in San Antonio for the Taffy 3 Reunion, hosted by the USS Gambier Bay and USS Kitkun Bay.

Paula Grond  
President



# SHIPS MERCHANDISE FORM

## ALL PRICES INCLUDE SHIPPING COSTS

	QUANTITY	TOTAL COST
Survivor Oral History from Taffy III 2014 San Diego Reunion <b>\$15.00</b>	_____	_____
Taffy III 2014 Memorial Service San Diego, California <b>\$15.00</b>	_____	_____
Life of Duty Documentary Featuring Norm St. German and Fred Grabos <b>\$10.00</b>	_____	_____
Freedom's Cost Lithograph <b>\$100.00</b>	_____	_____
The Men of the USS Gambier Bay Book <b>\$40.00</b>	_____	_____
USS Gambier Bay Framed Stamp <b>\$5.00</b> small frame/ <b>\$8.00</b> large frame	_____	_____
USS Gambier Bay Hat <b>\$25.00</b>	_____	_____
USS Gambier Bay Mouse Pad <b>\$12.00</b>	_____	_____
USS Gambier Bay Polo Shirt (mens/womans) (Navy with yellow embroidery) S-M-L-XL - <b>\$33.00</b> XXL-XXXL - <b>\$38.00</b> Shipping time is 2 weeks from order	_____	_____
USS Gambier Bay Womens Bling Shirt Black S-M-L-XL - <b>\$38.00</b> XXL- XXXL - <b>\$40.00</b> Shipping time is 2 weeks from order	_____	_____
I Love the Men of the Gambier Bay Button Pin <b>\$3.00</b>	_____	_____
USS Gambier Bay Coffee Mug <b>\$10.00</b>	_____	_____

**RECONCILIATION TOTALS ON NEXT PAGE**

**SHIPS MERCHANDISE FORM**  
**ALL PRICES INCLUDE SHIPPING COSTS**

**QUANTITY**

**TOTAL COST**

Personalized Laser Etching Tile  
**\$40.00**  
Shipping time is 2 weeks from order

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**OTHER OPTIONS FOR ETCHINGS FOR DESIGN AND WORDING AVAILABLE**

**SEE SEPARATE ORDER FORM FOR EXAMPLES**

**(CONTACT PAULA AT [pk\\_grond@yahoo.com](mailto:pk_grond@yahoo.com) for questions/orders)**

Air Craft Carrier

Lone Sailor

US Flag

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**Example: Tin Can Destroyer**

Wording for Top Line Inside Circle

\_\_\_\_\_

Wording for Bottom Line Inside Circle

\_\_\_\_\_

Wording for Bottom Outside of Circle

\_\_\_\_\_



**TOTAL ITEMS ORDERED**

\_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ORDER AMOUNT**

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Form and Check (**payable to USS Gambier Bay Association**) to:

Marlene Hughes

USS Gambier Bay Association

2228 E. Greenlee Road

Tucson, Arizona 85719





# In Memoriam

## Shipmates who have crossed the Bar



**Aaron Shlesman 11/4/2017 TM 3/c**

Aaron Shlesman, 93, beloved husband of the late Cherna (nee Eisenberg); loving father of Amy (Robert) Bulgatz and Nancy (Mark) Poncer; cherished "Papa" of Michael (Maria), Brian (Gabiella), and Elissa Bulgatz, Benjamin and Anne Poncer; adored son of the late Ben and Bertha Shlesman; dear uncle and friend to many. Graveside services to be held at Memorial Park Cemetery, 9900 Gross Point Rd. in Skokie, IL. Tuesday, November 7th at 2:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Ann & Robert H. [Lurie Children's Hospital www.luriechildrens.org](http://www.luriechildrens.org), or any [charity of your choice](#). *(Rest in Peace Aaron-we will toll the bell for you in San Antonio 2018)*

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**Maynard Atwell Sr. 05/30/1925 - 09/16/2017 S 1/c**

Maynard Atwell, Sr. was born on May 30, 1925, in Clovis, New Mexico, and died at the V.A. Hospice Care Center in Prescott on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2017.

Maynard was a WWII veteran serving in the Navy from October 1943 through his discharge in November of 1946. He was stationed on the USS Gambier Bay that was sunk in a battle with the Japanese in the Pacific.

Maynard is survived by his wife of 68 years, Ruth, of Prescott; and three sons, Maynard, Jr., of Prescott, Wayne and Bruce of Yuma. He is also survived by his two grandchildren, Joshua Atwell of Prescott and Amanda Solomon of Yuma, along with four great-grandchildren.

Graveside services are being held at the Seligman Cemetery on Friday, Sept. 22, 2017, at 11:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to honor Maynard's memory to Good Samaritan Society-Prescott Hospice, Marley House, Prescott, Arizona. *( Rest in Peace Maynard -we will toll the bell for you at the memorial service next October)*

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**Josephine "Jo" Potochniak 1925-5/16/2017**

Jo Potochniak 91, of Endwell, beloved Mother and Binka, left this earthly life to rejoin her beloved husband, sweetheart and best friend of 62 years, Anthony, in the heavenly kingdom on May 16, 2017. She was predeceased by her parents, Louis and Josephine (Kovac) Svikruha; a grandson, Daniel Potochniak; sisters and brothers-in-law, Anna and Louie Bagola, Paulina and John Walters, and Irene and Willard Stark; a sister-in-law Betty Potochniak and a brother-in-law Ronald Baker. She is survived by three sons and two daughters-in-law, Thomas Potochniak, David and Linda Potochniak and Robert and Patricia Potochniak all of Endicott; four grandchildren, Stephanie (Marcelo) Molina of VA, Andrea Potochniak of Endicott, Kayla (Chris) Wilson of TN and Matthew Potochniak of Endicott; a step grandson Michael Marini of PA, a great granddaughter Savannah Wilson of TN; a sister-in-law Virginia Baker of CA; as well as many nieces and nephews. *( Rest in Peace Jo, we tolled the bell for you at the memorial service in Seattle)*

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**Charles "Pat" Allison 12/11/1921 -09/13/2017 S 2/c**

Charles Sherman "Pat" Allison, 95, of Elkhart, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2017, at his home.

He was born Dec. 11, 1921, in Meeker, Oklahoma, to the late James A. and Dolly (Van Lieu) Allison.

He married the former Roberta J. "June" Campbell on Dec. 29, 1948; she passed in 2015.

Surviving are his children, Jill S. Allison and Thomas R. (Lynn) Allison, both of Elkhart; granddaughter Lindsay (Paul) McCormick; great-granddaughter Eleni McCormick of Auburn, Alabama; and a host of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Jan L. Allison; brothers James "Arthur", Joseph, and Fred "Richard" Allison; and sisters Opal Thursby-Overmyer and Ola Ogle.

Pat lived in Oklahoma during the dustbowl, but went to California to work with the Civilian Conservation Corps.

He enlisted in the U. S. Navy shortly after Pearl Harbor and also served in the Merchant Marines.

He worked at Continental Can Corp. and Reese Products, but always considered himself a farmer at heart.

He loved to play golf and even worked as a caddy at Pebble Beech Golf Club.

Pat enjoyed dominoes, shooting pool, dice and watching Shirley Temple, old westerns and World War II movies.

A joint graveside service for Pat and his wife June will be at 2:45 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6, in Rice Cemetery, with military honors by the U.S. Navy funeral honor guard and DAV No. 19.



# In Memoriam

## Shipmates who have crossed the Bar

**Robert J. Bordt 6/22/1922-12/7/2017 AMM 3/c**



Robert J. Bordt, 95, of Dunnellon, Florida, formerly of Monroe, passed away peacefully Thursday at Wellspring Lutheran Services, The Lutheran Home, Monroe.

He was born June 22, 1922 in Ash Township, MI to Herman and Emilie (Gumtow) Bordt. Robert served in the [U.S. Navy](#) in [WWII](#) from 1942-1945. While in service he survived the sinking of a ship, the USS Gambier Bay. He worked for Ford Motor Company for 38 years as a float analyst, retiring in 1975. Robert was a lifelong member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Maybee, a member of the [VFW](#) Post 4361 in Maybee and also enjoyed fishing in his spare time.

Robert is survived by his loving siblings, Dale (Patricia) Bordt of Des Moines, IA; Marjorie (Hubert) Mead of Okemos, MI and Jerilea Bordt of Monroe, MI; and also his loving nieces and nephews Clifford Bordt, Melinda (Gary) Scholten, Rebecca Bordt, Sharon (George) Dellorto, Wendy Mead (Richard Coy) and Matthew (Lisa) Mead. Robert is preceded in death by his parents Herman and Emilie Bordt.

Friends may call Saturday 4-9 p.m. at The Liedel Chapel-Martenson Family of Funeral Homes, 9061 Raisin St., Maybee. Funeral service Sunday, in state noon until service at 12:30 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 7771 High St., Maybee. Interment will take place at Michigan Memorial Park Cemetery, Flat Rock. Those acting as pallbearers include Erin Goff, Adam Goff, Brandon Coy, Andrew Sienkiewicz, Jessica Sienkiewicz and Steven Coy.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Maybee or to the [charity of the donor's choice](#). To share a memory or leave an online condolence for the family, please visit [www.allore.com](http://www.allore.com). (*We will toll the bell for*



**Robert Herfuth-5/22/1925- 11/29/2017 USS Kitkun Bay**

Bob crossed the bar after a short illness. He served on the USS Kitkun Bay and we learned to love him and his wife Bunny these last 4 years. They along with their daughter Chris and son-in-law Matt Kennedy and grandchildren Shane, Devon and Chase always helped with the reunions starting with the Taffy 3 one in San Diego. I am grateful for getting to know Bob and the entire family. He was the salt of the earth and a wonderful person.

(*Rest in Peace Bob and we will toll the bell for you next October in San Antonio.*)



**Board of Governors & Officers  
2017-2019**

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11. Norm St. Germain, Governor  
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Telephone: 541-736-6759
12. Dean Moel, Governor  
1761 Racine Avenue, NE, A-1  
Solon, Iowa 52333  
Telephone: 319-430-4348

**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.**

*Louis Amundson, Sr  
Norm St Germain  
Sally Loats  
Dorothy Warren  
Virgil A Goad Jr.  
George & Gail Legath  
Mary Mannuppella  
Rudolph Biller  
Michelle Campbell  
Lou Amundson  
Lucille Gutzwiler  
Lucas Barnlund  
Dan Hoffman*



**USS Gambier Bay/VC-10 Survivors at 2017 Seattle Reunion**

**Seated is George Feliz, Norm St Germain, Dean Moel and Carl Amundson**





# Mail Call

Sent to Paula via e-mail from Licia Nicholson [laicholson@mchsi.com](mailto:laicholson@mchsi.com)

6/30/2017



Greetings. My father was a gunner on an avenger aircraft at Leyte Gulf. I am trying to find out which ship he served on. I submitted a form to archives and am still waiting. Is there a roster of shipmates available? His name is James M Powell.

*(Paula sent a response that we did not have his name on our crew list and she added it but we would put her e-mail request in the Scuttlebutt to see if any survivor would remember her father.) Licia since you are a daughter who can request your Dad's Navy records from the Navy, it does take time to get them. Good luck with your search.)*

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Received from Gil Leach on Gambier Bay Facebook page

6/20/2017

Gil posted that his Dad was Richard W. Leach SC 3/c. Paula responded and asked for pictures of him for the website. Gil thanked us for all we are doing and said his father loved his ship and crew very much.

*(We added Gil to our e-mail list and sent him the last Scuttlebutt-we are hoping to see him in San Antonio next October.*

*Gil, I just wanted to add I spoke to your Dad a number of times, he worked for my uncle Leonard Martin in the Galley-from the editor Marlene Hughes)*

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Card received from Jeannette Hall (daughter of Fred Grabos)

11/7/2017

Thank you for all that you do. It was a very special Sunday Service at the reunion this year. I figured you know why! Thank you again and for allowing me to present my eulogy for Dad. I truly miss him.

*(The eulogy was very special to all of us attending, your Dad would have been proud. You did an excellent job!)*



I wanted to tell you all about how we got this photo of Forest & Evelyn Pruitt.

Norm St Germain and Forest were friends on board ship and told the story to one of our new attendees. Right after that a picture was posted on facebook of the four survivors in the hospitality room. The widow of Forest Pruitt's son (Wayne Pruitt) posted a comment stating her husband was only 4 months old when his father died and that Evelyn was still alive at 92.

Well to add to the story we shared the comment with Norm and of course you can imagine his reaction. He wanted to be able to talk to Evelyn and when I got home I contacted her daughter-in-law and set the wheels in motion. Evelyn and Norm had a great phone conversation and both were thrilled to be able to talk to each other after 73 years.

Evelyn's granddaughter contacted us on our Facebook page and wanted to know more about her grandfathers ship. Paula steered her to our website and asked for pictures of Forest in his uniform and both of them together. This is there

wedding picture taken in March of 1944. Now you can see why Norm says this was by far the best reunion.

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Letter received from Bob & Ellen Belcoure October 30, 2017

Dear Marlene,

Just a few lines to say thanks again for us having a good time at the 2017 reunion. Without you and Paula it would not be possible. I still wake up every morning with a smile on my face thinking of all those nice things Ellen & I won at the raffle. See you next year in Texas. I received the Litho on 10/27.

**Yours truly,** *(Bob's dad was on the ship and has been coming to the reunions since 2015. Bob won a litho which was sent to me Bob & Ellen from a gentleman in New Orleans found at a garage sale with signatures of people attending the 2003 reunion in New Orleans and a Gambier Bay Book signed by the survivors at the 2008 Minnesota reunion plus \$125.00. Glad you had a great time and as far as the clipping you sent I probably will have to put it in the next issue of the Scuttlebutt)*



Mail call continued

Received this letter from Rudolph F. Biller RM 3/c



You asked me to send you a before and after picture for the Scuttlebutt. I don't have much of a biography of myself. I am a retired coal miner having worked in the mines for 39 years. The last 18 years I was a foreman. My life has been good to me. I have three wonderful kids, a daughter and two sons. I miss the reunions very much but at 93 its hard to get around. We used to make every reunion and enjoyed the company of William & Janet Badgero of Onway, MI, Lois & Lee McCollum of Chicago, Doris & George Oswald of Louisville, KY and Bill Moreland of Brownsville, TX, we never met his wife. I know that all the men are gone but I don't know if any of their wives are still living and get the Scuttlebutt. I would like to hear from them. My phone # is 724-737-5709.

My life in the Navy was a wonderful experience. I got to see most of the world, government paid. I wish I could get to one more reunion before I cross the bar.

Thank you for keeping the Gambier Bay alive.

Thank you Marlene

*( Thanks for the letter Rudolph! Sadly the couples you mentioned were not on my mailing list except for Lois McCollum but her Scuttlebutt was returned to me without a forwarding address some time ago. We certainly would love to have you join us in San Antonio next October. Maybe one of your children could bring you. This year we had quite a few new faces join the Gambier Bay family for the reunion-2nd and 3rd generations. By the way you look great for 93)*

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**Comment on the Guest Book page 12/11/17**

Very, very interesting. My wife "Peggie" is the daughter of "Steven Teller Adams" who served on the USS Gambier Bay. He died in Butte, MT in 1957. His widow "Helen" lives in Seattle, WA as of 2017. They had 5 children together. We would wish to know if anyone remembers "Telf"?

Good morning Richard VanHoose [vanwho@hughes.net](mailto:vanwho@hughes.net)

*( Richard -"Telf" was Seaman 2/c so not sure where he worked on the ship. Hopefully those shipmates reading this might remember him. Our last reunion was just in Seattle.) I added you to our e-mail list.*

## Seattle Reunion Photos

Norm, Dean & George

Susan Bagen, Cindy Young & Lauren Buhl



Below is Marlene Hughes & George Feliz cutting a rug.

Our Gambier Bay and Kitkun Bay Survivors:  
Standing left to right are Bob Herfuth, Dean Moel & Norm St Germain.

Seated left to right are Don Winson, Carl Amundson, George Feliz, Lyndle Irick, Jack Bacastow and Alfred White.

The quilt of valor was given to Lyndle Irick





## Seattle Reunion Photos



Above: Paula Grond, Susan Leigh, John Shore & Don Wilson

Right: Chris Kennedy & Brook



Flowers for the Memorial service



Jack Bacastow winning money at the raffle

Steve Lanier, Linda Shimerda & Sandy Lanier  
Showing off Red-White-Blue at Pikes Place  
Market





## Seattle Reunion Photos

Robert Beloure with the signed Litho he won at the raffle.



Dean Moel, Norm St Germain and Don Wilson laughing with a Filipino gal who liked our music better than theirs in the next ballroom. Quite a few came over to dance and meet the guys.



The gang trying to get warm while waiting for the bus at Pikes Place Market.



George Feliz with Cindy Young at the Memorial Service.



Reunion Photos



George Feliz and family



Missing Man Table

Our Banner hanging outside of the Hospitality room!



Our Color Guard from Federal Way HS. They did a fantastic job!



Dean Moel with his sister and daughters

Carl Amundson & Fran Carlson



## Editors comments

First off I have to say this last reunion was a hum dinger-we had so much fun and the stories were endless. We had quite a few newcomers to this reunion who now are part of the Gambier Bay family.

Carl Amundson got to meet the son of Eugene Lewis who just popped into the hospitality room to meet some survivors and find out if any knew his Dad. Low and behold Carl told him he would not be alive today because Eugene jumped into the sea with him because Carl could not swim. Amazing!!

I received two phone calls lately one was from Darrell Bennett (VC-10 Pilot) who just called to thank me for keeping the Gambier Bay Assoc alive-lovely to talk to you Darrell. The second one was from my favorite Mad Russian, Mike Towstik who will be 96 on January 1st. He sounds great and is still cracking jokes. Love you!

Our next Reunion will be in San Antonio next October.

**Save these dates- October 18-22 2018.**

**Doubletree San Antonio Airport Hotel [www.sanantonioairport.doubletree.com](http://www.sanantonioairport.doubletree.com)**

**Rate-\$113 plus tax. (rates good 3 days before and after)**

**Free Shuttle to & from Airport and within two miles of the hotel.**

**Includes Full American Breakfast Buffet**

We will have one tour on Friday and it will be to the Pacific War Museum in Fredericksburg, TX about an hour away. More details in the next Scuttlebutt.

We will have a reception on Thursday night, dinner on your own Friday night, our banquet on Saturday night and on Sunday the Memorial service at the hotel with a luncheon following. **See you in October.**

Thinking of you and hoping that you all will be blessed with good health, happiness and special memories this Christmas and in the coming year.

Marlene





**APPLICATION FOR USS GAMBIER BAY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP**

**SURVIVORS/WIDOWS DO NOT PAY DUES**

**Membership dues are \$15.00 annually or \$100.00 for Lifetime Membership**

**Both options include a subscription to our newsletter, Scuttlebutt**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Membership Application (please check one)**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 annual dues  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00 lifetime dues

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate if you would like your  
Scuttlebutt subscription emailed  
or send via the US mail.**

**Additional Information**

**Survivor Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Crossed the Bar Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Survivor Rank/Rate:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Division:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Member relationship to survivor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Mail Application and Dues  
(payable to USS Gambier Bay Association)  
TO  
Marlene Hughes  
2228 E. Greenlee Road  
Tucson, AZ 85719-2012**

**USS Gambier/VC-10 & USS Kitkun Bay Reunion  
2018 in San Antonio, TX**

**Save the Dates October 18-22nd 2018**

**Please join the Gambier Bay & Kitkun Bay Associations Commemorate  
the 74th Anniversary of the Battle of Leyte Gulf**

**Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews.  
Let them be aware of the the strong history your ship had in WWII.**



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The Latest Scoop from around the

**“ Scuttlebutt”**

**Return to  
Marlene Hughes  
2228 E Greenlee Rd  
Tucson, AZ 85719-2012  
Address Service requested**