

SCUTTLEBUTT

Summer Newsletter 2017

Presidents Corner

Hello Gambier Bay Family!

Registration is continuing for our 2017 USS Gambier Bay/USS Kitkun Bay Reunion (Seattle, Washington – October 19-22, 2017). Please find enclosed all the necessary information for registration, hotel, and our excursion. **We have also invited the USS Johnston/Hoel members to come join us this year!**

The Association Board of Governors has voted to cover the fee for registration and three nights (Thursday, Friday, Saturday) hotel stay for all of our USS Gambier Bay/VC-10 survivors who attend the reunion. If you have questions, please contact Marlene Hughes at mahome@cox.net.

This year, we will have our Board meeting (everyone is invited to attend), and we will also have a membership meeting, which will include the election of officers and governors for 2017-2019. If you are interested in a position as an officer or governor, please let me know ASAP and I can forward your name onto our nominating committee who will then contact you about your interest.

I wanted to take a minute to introduce you to your current Board members. You have seen their name, perhaps you have met them but now see how they are connected to the Association.

Paula Grond – President. I am a second generation. My father was Paul LaRocco and he crossed the bar in January 1991. I joined the Board in 2005.

Lauren Bagen Buel – Vice President. Lauren is a third generation. Her grandfather was Lou (Louis) Vilmer and he crossed the bar in March 2012. Lauren joined the Board in 2009.

Marlene Hughes – Treasurer. Marlene is a second generation. Her uncle was Leonard G. Martin and was KIA 10/26/44. Marlene joined the Board in 2005.

Linda Shimerda – Secretary. Linda is a second generation. Her father, Dean Moel, is also on the Board. Linda joined the Board in 2013.

Susan Bagen – Governor. Susan is a second generation, and mother of our Vice President, Lauren. Her father was Lou (Louis) Vilmer. Susan joined the Board in 2007.

Lucille Gutzwiler – Governor. Lucille is the widow of Jerry (Jerome) Gutzwiler and he crossed the bar in March 1998. Lucille joined the Board in 2007.

Jennifer Wheeler – Governor. Jennifer is a second generation. Her father was Owen (Wheels) Wheeler and he crossed the bar in October 2014. Jennifer joined the Board in 2015.

Tom Westbrook – Governor. Tom is a second generation. His father was Charlie (Charles) Westbrook and Charlie served the Association in many positions. Charlie crossed the bar in March 2009. Tom joined the Board in 2011.

Susan Turner – Governor. Susan is a second generation. Her father was Jack (John) Turner and he served the Association in many positions. Jack crossed the bar in September 2011. Susan joined the Board in 2007.

Mark Heintl – Governor. Mark is a second generation. His father was Charlie (Charles) Heintl and Charlie was one of the founders of the Association. Mark joined the Board in 2009.

Presidents Corner Continued

Dean Moel – Governor. Dean is a survivor of the USS Gambier Bay, and father to our Secretary, Linda. Dean joined the Board in 2015.

Norm St. Germain – Governor. Norm is a survivor of the USS Gambier Bay. Norm joined the Board in 2015.

SECOND AND THIRD GENERATION FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS – Two ways to help support the Association. One is to shop our Ship Store. We have tons of personalized items, such as women's Bling Shirts, men's polo shirts, DVDs, our Men of the USS Gambier Bay book, hats, and a special item for you to personalize – a memory granite tile. Another way to help support the Association is with your membership. Your membership donation allows you to have a vote at our membership meetings and it also helps with the printing and postage of our quarterly Scuttlebutt publication. Lifetime membership is \$100, or you can join on a yearly basis at \$15 a year. Please see our membership application inside.

THANK YOU TO ALL for continuing to support the Association with your purchases, donations, and membership. OUR MISSION AND GOAL IS TO CONTINUE TO HONOR, RECOGNIZE, REMEMBER, AND TO KEEP THE MEMORY ALIVE OF ALL WHO SERVED ON THE USS GAMBIER BAY/VC-10.

Our website has been growing and growing! Thank you to all survivors and family members who have submitted photos, stories, and videos. We are always looking for new photos to post, such as: young Gambier Bay sailors in their uniform, photos from their lives, work, family, or special events. If you have photos or stories you would like to submit, **please contact me at pk_grond@yahoo.com.**

I look forward to seeing you at the 2017 reunion in Seattle.

Paula LaRocco-Grond
President

This is an Official U.S. Navy Photograph taken December 2, 1944 of some of the survivors when they returned to the States. Mike Pyzdrowski sent it to Marlene last December so she could send to Monty's daughter Beth.

Front Row L to R:

Chief Charles Horton ACMM, Chief Walt Flanders ACM, Chief Andrew A. Andrews ACOM, Chief Morris Montgomery ACMM, Chief Robert Steadman ACRM, Chief Joseph Russell ACMM

Second Row L to R: Richard David Dudley ARM 3/c, William Herman Albers SKV 1/c, James George DeBerardinis ARM 1/c, Grover Phillips, Charles Austin Clarkson AMM 2/c

Third Row L to R: Bert Allen Thompson AMM 1/c, Dale George McCoy PR 1/c, Jack Howard Subers AMMP 1/c, Lawrence Orville Chapman AOM 2/c

Fourth Row L to R: Lee Gwyn McDaniel, Gerald Paul Fauls ARM 3/c, Frederick Edward Luker AMM 2/c, Henry Joseph Rosinsky AMM 2/c, William Edward Ballou AMM 1/c

(Beth had never seen the photo before- she noticed The rag-tag uniforms donated to them by both Army and Navy personnel. Monty was holding my Uncle Leonard G. Martin when he died in the water 10/26/1944.)



APPLICATION FOR USS GAMBIER BAY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

SURVIVORS OF THE USS GAMBIER BAY 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**

SHIPS MERCHANDISE FORM
ALL PRICES INCLUDE SHIPPING COSTS

	QUANTITY	TOTAL COST
Survivor Oral History from Taffy III 2014 San Diego Reunion \$15.00	_____	_____
Taffy III 2014 Memorial Service San Diego, California \$15.00	_____	_____
Life of Duty Documentary Featuring Norm St. German and Fred Grabos \$10.00	_____	_____
Freedom's Cost Lithograph \$75.00	_____	_____
The Men of the USS Gambier Bay Book \$40.00	_____	_____
USS Gambier Bay Framed Stamp \$5.00 small frame/ \$8.00 large frame	_____	_____
USS Gambier Bay Hat \$25.00	_____	_____
USS Gambier Bay Mouse Pad \$10.00	_____	_____
USS Gambier Bay Polo Shirt (mens/womans) (Navy with yellow embroidery) S-M-L-XL - \$30.00 XXL-XXXL - \$35.00 Shipping time is 2 weeks from order	_____	_____
USS Gambier Bay Womens Bling Shirt Black S-M-L-XL - \$35.00 XXL- XXXL - \$40.00 Shipping time is 2 weeks from order	_____	_____
I Love the Men of the Gambier Bay Button Pin \$3.00	_____	_____
USS Gambier Bay Coffee Mug \$10.00	_____	_____

RECONCILIATION TOTALS ON NEXT PAGE

SHIPS MERCHANDISE FORM
ALL PRICES INCLUDE SHIPPING COSTS

QUANTITY

TOTAL COST

Personalized Laser Etching Tile
\$35.00
Shipping time is 2 weeks from order

OTHER OPTIONS FOR ETCHINGS FOR DESIGN AND WORDING AVAILABLE

SEE SEPARATE ORDER FORM FOR EXAMPLES

(CONTACT PAULA AT pk_grond@yahoo.com for questions/orders)

Air Craft Carrier

Lone Sailor

US Flag



Example: Tin Can Destroyer

Wording for Bottom Line Inside Circle

Wording for Bottom Outside of Circle

Wording for Top Line Inside 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

Mail Call



Sent to Marlene via e-mail

April 26, 2017

Marlene

Great job with the Scuttlebutt, and a shout out to all who coordinated the reunion for this year.

I wanted to let you know that Dianne, Noah, and I will be unable to attend the reunion this year because we will be settling in at our new duty station at Marine Forces in Stuttgart, Germany. It was a complete surprise. but a wonderful opportunity to receive these orders. We depart at the end of June for the next 24-26 months. Even though we will be unable to attend this year, please keep the Scuttlebut coming, and let us know the plans for future reunions.

It was an honor to meet the veteran's and family of the Gambier Bay, Kitkun Bay and others of Taffy 3. I look forward to continue to follow them through the website, Facebook, and Scuttlebutt.

Sincerely,

Matt Eelman. (Matt-we wish you and the family all the best in Germany. We will miss all of you at the reunion. Matt's grandfather was Harry Eelman AMM 2/c. Thank you for doing the eulogy of your grandfather at last years reunion.)

Posted to our Facebook page

6/2/2017

Hi,

I am searching for any information you might have about my grandfather, George Spaulding. He was on the Gambier Bay when it sunk in October 1944. Do you have any ideas or where I might find additional info? I know it is a stretch, but thought I would ask. He died when I was a very little girl. Thank you for your help!

gailfrasiercox@hotmail.com (We posted the message on Facebook and told Gail about our website-If anyone remembers George please e-mail her. His ranking was STM 1/c- Steward's Mate 1st class Petty Officer.)

Posted to our Facebook page

6/7/2017

I would be honored to attend this year's reunion event. My father, Francis Payer, survived the Gambier Bay. I attended one reunion with him in Annapolis as a little girl. Our only family vacation. My Dad was my ultimate hero and heard many stories about this historic event. Please keep me posted on the upcoming details. I would be happy to help make this event a success anyway I can.

Beth Pardoe

(Paula had Beth e-mail her and we gave her the information on the reunion and sent her a copy of the Scuttlebutt. It is great to add to our Gambier Bay family-we look forward to meeting you in Seattle in October-you have been added to the e-mail list.)

Mail Call Continued

E-Mail sent to Paula June 10. 2017



Hi Paula, my name is Mary Manuppella. My Father, Daniel Rocco Natale (MOMM3), served aboard the USS Gambier Bay; he crossed the bar in July 2008. Attached is a picture I found of my dad (in the middle) and two of his shipmates that I would like to share with you and the other members. I don't know where it was taken, but on the flip side of the picture are the names of the other two sailors - -

S.A. Walker (Stuart Allen Walker) and L.L.Norris (Leslie Lavell Norris). Hopefully, the Walker and Norris family members will visit your website and enjoy this photo too. Thanks for all you do to keep their memories alive!

Mary

Manuppella



(Mary noted to Paula that she is not sure who is Stuart or Leslie.- Paula posted the picture on Facebook and on our website but as of now we still are not sure) If anyone knows please let me or Paula know. It looks like it was taken down south of San Diego in Tijuana)

Mary also is sending us an order for two hats.



Posted on our guestbook page on the website April 3, 2017

My Grandpa Frank J Smith said this was his ship. I have 3 photos of several of his buddies and himself. He crossed the bar (died) April 7, 1997 in Ga. still wearing his US NAVY hat. I hope you will add his date to list please. He lived with tons of shrapnel in his head and back until the day he died. I'm his only granddaughter, So we will carry his legacy on. My son serves in the Military as of October, 2016 as we love America. God bless You all, the families, and all who served with him.

Shanan Dawson *(We updated the date of your grandfathers passing and please don't forget to send the photos of him)*

Posted on our guestbook page on the website May3, 2017

A very impressive website thanks for a great job. My Dad never talked much about his experience and passed away way too soon. Just to up date your information Edgar Dell Terwillger was listed as Edgar Doll and he passed away on September 27,1966 in Dolton. IL.

Wayne E. Terwillger. *(Thank you for the information and we updated the website-sorry for the typo)*

Mail Call Continued

Email sent to Marlene on May 22, 2017



Marlene

I am following up on your past requests for information and naval pics for my Dad, Anthony Moffa. I did locate after cleaning out some old files several naval pics of him as well as telegrams sent to my mom on his missing-in-action status and a followup telegram on his survival. As you recall, I previously forwarded to you his notes on the various battles for the Gambier Bay that I accidentally found. I have attached three scans. The first is a copy of the two telegrams sent to my mom. The first was sent dated Nov 14, 1944 and informs her that Dad was missing in action. Below the first telegram is a second one that was sent to my Mom dated Dec 2, 1944 informing her that Dad had been located and was a survivor. I could never really imagine the emotional highs and lows stemming from the receipt of each telegram. The second scan is of a letter sent to Mom dated Dec 23, 1944 indicating that indeed my Dad was a survivor. And the 3rd scan shows 3 pics of my Dad taken I believe after he went through naval training at the Great Lakes Training facilities. Dad was a Fireman First Class. Please feel free to use the pics, letter and telegrams as needed.

Dad has been gone since 1997 and we indeed greatly miss him.

David Moffa

(Unfortunately I could not add the telegrams because you could not read them when I dropped them on this page. Thank you for sharing David. You are right I can not imagine the emotions that your Mother had to contend with not knowing at first and then the waiting to hear from him. We added the picture of your Dad to the website.)



To the left is one of the plaques dedicated to the USS Gambier Bay on the wall at the Pacific World War II Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas. This one is the photo called "Final Hour " the other plaque has the photo of "Freedom's Cost".

If you ever go to San Antonio, this museum is a must see about an hour away in Federicksburg.

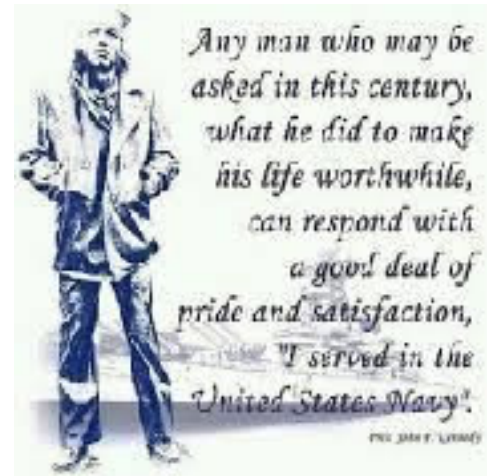
**Board of Governors & Officers
2015-2017**

1. Paula Grond, President
13632 Carpintino Ave
Bellflower, CA 90706
Telephone: 562-866-1192
E-Mail: pk_grond@yahoo.com
2. Lauren Bagen-Buhl, Vice President
1944 Paris
Plano, TX 75025
Telephone: 972-489-7281
E-Mail: lauren.bagen.buhl@gmail.com
3. Marlene Hughes, Treasurer
2228 E Greenlee Rd
Tucson, AZ 85719-2012
Telephone: 520-326-0747
E-Mail: mahhome@cox.net
4. Linda Shimerda, Secretary
9110 Trails St
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E-Mail: kayshimer@yahoo.com
5. Jennifer Wheeler, Governor
4122 Blossom St
Columbia, SC 29205-2849
Telephone: 860-816-4236
E-Mail: phanchap@live.com
6. Tom Westbrook, Governor
5958 Lookingglass
Roseburg, OR 97471
Telephone: 650-248-3987
E-Mail: westpony@yahoo.com
7. Lucille Gutzwiler, Governor
212 W Edgemont
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Telephone: 509-663-1406
E-Mail: luciqutz@nwi.net
8. Susan Bagen, Governor
1944 Paris Ave
Plano, TX 75025
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9. Susan Turner, Governor
14875 Creekside Lane
Longmont, CO 80503
Telephone: 303-485-8815
Email: turnersusan31@gmail.com
10. Mark Heinel, Governor
217 Eastview Dr
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Telephone: 419-678-8168
E-Mail: heinl_22@hotmail.com
11. Norm St. Germain, Governor
1231 N Street
Springfield, OR 97477
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.

Sally Loats
William Lemorande III
Robert Belcoure II
Rudolph Biller
Milton Fogg
Chris Shelvik
Linda Huey
Philip Young
Delia Avenenti
Mark Cone



The photo below was taken labor day weekend in Prescott Valley, AZ. The town places the flags to commemorate the number of lives lost on 9/11. The 6th annual Healing field will be from September 8-15th, 2017. It brings the community together to honor the victims of the 2001 terrorist attack with a formation of flags that create an atmosphere of optimism and Healing.



IN MEMORIAM

SHIPMATES AND WIVES WHO HAVE CROSSED THE BAR



MARGARET SWEETSER HAGERTY

AGE 88 OF BLOOMINGTON, PASSED FROM THIS LIFE ON APRIL 21, 2017, SURROUNDED BY LOVE. MARGARET LOVINGLY DEVOTED HER LIFE TO OTHERS.

HER LOVE OF GOD AND FAMILY WAS HER TRUE BEING. HER ENORMOUS GIFTS OF LOVE, COMPASSION, AND CURIOSITY MADE EVERYONE WHO CROSSED HER PATH FEEL SPECIAL. SHE LIVED A LIFE OF GRATITUDE. MARGARET'S GRACIOUS DISPOSITION ENDEARED HER TO ALL AND HER MODESTY BELIED HER VAST INTELLECT. SHE HAD A LIFELONG LOVE OF LEARNING. A LINGUIST,

HISTORIAN, PHILOSOPHER, AND SCHOLAR, SHE WAS NEVER WITHOUT A BOOK, FREQUENTLY IN FRENCH.

MARGARET GREW UP IN MINNEAPOLIS, THE ONLY CHILD OF DR. HORATIO SWEETSER AND MAY MORRISSEY SWEETSER. SHE ATTENDED THE CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART IN [LAKE](#) FOREST, ILLINOIS, WHICH HAD A PROFOUND IMPACT ON HER CHRISTIAN FAITH. SHE GRADUATED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA WITH DEGREES IN FRENCH AND SPANISH. AFTER GRADUATION, SHE WORKED IN NEW YORK CITY AND BOSTON, NOTABLY AT THE HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL. SHE RETURNED TO MINNEAPOLIS WHERE SHE MET AND MARRIED HER BEST FRIEND AND SOULMATE EDWARD HAGERTY.

THEY WERE BLESSED WITH 55 YEARS OF LOVE AND LAUGHTER THAT THEY SHARED WITH THEIR SIX CHILDREN: BRIDGET HAGERTY (PHIL PARKINSON) OF DEERBROOK, WI; JOHN HAGERTY (JUANITA) OF RICHMOND, VA; ANN HAGERTY [HICKS](#) OF EDEN PRAIRIE, MN; CATHERINE KIRCHNER (KEVIN) OF EDINA, MN; NORA HAGERTY (KEVIN LYTTLE) OF PARK CITY, UT; AND MICHAEL HAGERTY (NANCY) OF PLYMOUTH, MN; GRANDCHILDREN, GABRIEL AND NATHANIEL HICKS, KATIE AND MAGGIE KIRCHNER, COCO BERWALD, PATRICK AND NORA HAGERTY, MELANIE PARKINSON, KIM VICKBERG (DAVE), JACQUELYN PARKINSON AND SAMANTHA HAGGARD (SEAN), AND 3 GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN.

VISITATION 5-7 PM TUESDAY, APRIL 25 AT WASHBURN-MCREAVY EDINA CHAPEL. MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL 11 AM WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26 WITH VISITATION BEGINNING AT 10:30 AM AT THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF GRACE, 5071 EDEN AVE., EDINA, MN. INTERMENT ST. MARY'S CEMETERY. MEMORIALS TO LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR, ST. STEPHEN'S HUMAN SERVICES, OR THE LANGLADE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY. SPECIAL THANKS TO THE CARING PROFESSIONALS AT FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE AND FAIRVIEW HOSPICE WHO CARED FOR HER WITH LOVE.

(MARGARET WAS THE NICEST PERSON AND A GREAT PARTNER TO ED. WE WILL MISS YOU AND MAY YOU REST IN PEACE. WE WILL TOLL THE BELL FOR YOU IN OCTOBER.)

PAUL STAMPS - DECEMBER 2004
SILVESTER J JAROSZ- 10/29/2006



In Memoriam Continued

Fred F. Grabos Sr. 8/1/1921-06/07/2017 AMM 2/c



Fred lived a long and wonderful life. Born and raised in East Chicago, Indiana, it was there that he enlisted at the beginning of WWII. While stationed at Sand Point Naval Air Station in Seattle, prior to being "shipped out", Fred met Helen who would later become his wife. After the Gambier Bay was sunk and while on leave prior to being reassigned to the Fanshaw Bay, Helen took a bus from Seattle to San Diego where Fred and Helen were married.

After the War, Helen and Fred returned to Seattle to raise a family in what Fred always referred to as "God's Country". In the Northwest, with their son and daughter, Helen and Fred enjoyed camping, fishing, gardening, golf and many other activities. Besides their Seattle home, their cabin on the beach on Hoods Canal offered an abundance of seafood, wildlife and other outdoor activities.

Fred's career at the Boeing Company included many highlights.

Boeing twice sent him to Japan on special assignment to coordinate tooling for the 767 program. Since the second assignment was to be two years, Helen traveled with Fred. The friends and memories made while in Japan were true treasures. In 1978, Fred was honored by the Boeing Company as the Fabrication Division's Supervisor of the Year. Fred was selected from an "impressive field of candidates representing every organization in the Division. That selection was based on a combination of his fine personal character, professional skill and excellent work performance."

Although Helen, his wife of 53 years, and Fred Jr. have passed, Fred Sr. leaves behind his daughter Jeannette, her husband Brian, a grandson AJ, AJ's wife Rosa and two great grandsons, Hudson and Huxley.

Fred's remains will be laid to rest next to Helen's at Washington Memorial Park in SeaTac, Washington, near Seattle.

(This was difficult to type-having become good friends with Fred and Jeannette over the last 20 years. Even though you know the end is near it is still hard. Oh so many stories to tell about Fred-but we always found time to get ice cream, his favorite. Fred himself was a great story teller-The Midshipmen who met him in San Diego in 2014 can attest to that. Not only will we toll the bell for you at the memorial service but Jeannette will do a eulogy. Love you and hope you are enjoying flying in the clouds.)

Louis "Lou" Rice RdM 3/c

Louis "Lou" William Rice, 93, departed from this earthly life on July 17, 2016. Louis was a [WWII](#) Veteran who served in the [US Navy](#) from 1941-1945 as a Radarman Third Class on the USS Gambier Bay. He was a member of the Yeatman Lodge #162 F and A M and was the founder and owner of Lou Rice & Associates. Lou is preceded in death by his parents Albert and Ordell Rice, siblings Robert "Bob" Rice, and Jean Houchins. Lou is survived by his wife of 32 years, Toshi; sister, Betty Vanderwalle; children, Joy Marcum, Joseph Rice, Jill DePriest (Steve), Jeri Wood (Jeff), Jeff Rice, and Susan Weber (Ben); grandchildren, Jan Marcum, Jennifer Davis, Matthew Rice (Crystal), Lindsay Hohman (Neil), Luke DePriest, Josh Wood (Jenie), Jayson Wood, Aubrey Webth and Ava Weber; and several great grandchildren. He will be forever missed but never forgotten by all whose lives he touched.

(May you rest in peace and we will toll the bell for you at the memorial service in October)

" PEARL HARBOR MISTAKES"

A very different and interesting conclusion of the December 7th attack on Pearl Harbor. Tour boats ferry people out to the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii every thirty minutes.

We just missed a ferry and had to wait thirty minutes. I went into a small gift shop to kill time. In the gift shop, I purchased a small book entitled, "Reflections on Pearl Harbor" by Admiral Chester Nimitz.

Sunday, December 7th, 1941--Admiral Chester Nimitz was attending a concert in Washington D.C. He was paged and told there was a phone call for him. When he answered the phone, it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He told Admiral Nimitz that he (Nimitz) would now be the Commander of the Pacific Fleet.

Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet. He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941. There was such a spirit of despair, dejection and defeat--you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war.

On Christmas Day, 1941, Adm. Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. Big sunken battleships and navy vessels cluttered the waters every where you looked. As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked, "Well Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?"

Admiral Nimitz's reply shocked everyone within the sound of his voice.

Admiral Nimitz said, "The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or God was taking care of America . Which do you think it was?"

Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, "What do mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?"

Nimitz explained: "Mistake number one: the Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk--we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800."

"Mistake number two: when the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships, they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow everyone of those ships to America to be repaired. As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America . And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships. "

"Mistake number three: Every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is on top of the ground in storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply."

"That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make, or God was taking care of America ."

I've never forgotten what I read in that little book. It is still an inspiration as I reflect upon it. Admiral Nimitz was able to see a silver lining in a situation and circumstance where everyone else saw only despair and defeatism.

President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job. We desperately needed a leader that could see silver linings in the midst of the clouds of dejection, despair and defeat. There is a reason that our national motto is, "IN GOD WE TRUST."

And it must remain our motto, if we are to be the GREAT nation who returned from the brink of destruction and despair to be the greatest nation on earth which is the land of the free and the home of the brave. " Thanks to the Greatest Generation"

Welcome to the 2017 USS Gambier Bay/Kitkun Bay Reunion Information Pages

We welcome the USS Johnson/Hoel members are to join us

When: October 19th-23rd

Where: Double Tree Suites on Southcenter Parkway in Tukwila, Washington

Rate: \$109 & 12.4% tax plus \$2.00 per night Tourism Promotion Area fee

This rate is good for 3 days before and after reunion. Cut off date is Thursday October 5th

To make reservations online:

<http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/S/SEASPDT-BAY-20171019/index.jhtml>

To make reservation by phone:

1-800-222-8733 Please provide the group code of BAY and the hotel name stated above.

Guestroom Reservation changes/ no-show:

If for any reason you have a reservation change on your first day of arrival to the hotel, you must notify the hotel directly of that change. Hotel room changes without notification cannot be guaranteed. Please have your confirmation number available when you call, 1-800-222-8733.

Free Airport Shuttle Instructions:

The complimentary Sea-Tac Airport Shuttle Service runs 24-hours a day. Guests should call 206-575-8220 when they arrive at the waiting areas Island # 1 or Island # 3 only. This is located one floor above baggage claim, cross over the sky bridge, and go down one floor to floor #3.

Then call us from the island. Return shuttles scheduled with front desk. Important Note: Be sure to get on the smaller van for the DoubleTree at Southcenter and not the large buses for the Double Tree at the airport. **Our shuttles are large white vans with a large brown stripe down the side of the van.**

DoubleTree Suites Overview

All -Suite Hotel

Each guest room has either one king size bed or two double beds

With a separate living room parlor that has a pull out sofa bed.

Two phones, coffee maker, refrigerator, two tv's with in-room movies

High-speed internet access in all guest rooms and in the business center

100% non smoking

Free shuttle to the Light Rail Station & FREE shuttle services within a 1 mile radius

Westfield Shopping Center located across the street, with more than 140 stores, over 40 restaurants nearby, banks, theatre and many other services and amenities nearby.

Individual Food and Dining

Cyber Cafe-featuring Starbucks, pastries, fruit and more. Hours: 5:30am- 5:30pm.

Northwest Landing Restaurant: Full Service for breakfast, lunch and dinner 6am-10pm.

Atrium Lounge/Bar: Open from 2pm-11pm.

In Room Dining: Additionally, we do offer room service.

Pool and Healthclub:

Indoor Swimming Pool: Open 5:30am-12am

24 hour Fitness Center

Reunion Itinerary

- Thurs - Oct 19th- Registration in Hospitality room by 10am in Summits rooms 1 and 2
Welcome Reception in the Atrium 6-7pm
- Friday- Oct 20th - 8:30AM-1:00PM- Seattle City Tour -Does not include lunch
- Friday- Oct 20th - Dinner on your own
- Sat - Oct 21st 9:30am Board Meeting in Pinnacle Room-membership meeting following
- Sat - Oct 21st - Banquet 5PM till 10PM in Dallas Ballroom
- Sun - Oct 22nd - 11AM Memorial Service and Luncheon following

The Hospitality Room will be open every day from 8am to 11pm during the reunion except for the banquet, memorial service and luncheon.

Reunion Details

1. Be sure to attend the welcome reception from 6-7pm in the Atrium on Thurs 10/19.
2. Friday of the 20th is open to enjoy the hospitality room or take the Seattle City tour.
Dinner will be on your own.
3. Saturday, the 21st is open to enjoy the hospitality room, take a dip in the pool
There will be some early morning meetings to be announced.

On this evening the banquet will take place. A great meal is being planned, there will be a raffle, and then entertainment.

4. Sunday, the 22nd of September, the memorial service will be at 10AM in the hotel.
After the memorial service, we have planned one final luncheon gathering.
Dinner that night is on your own. The hospitality room will be open until 10pm.

Any questions, comments please contact Marlene Hughes. (520-326-0747 or mahhome@cox.net. Please get your registrations in as early as possible by 9/1/2017.

Seattle Tour Details

We will be picked in front of the hotel at 8:30am -please bring your tour ticket.

We will be exploring the following places and will be able to get out and explore our point of stops for 35-45 minutes

1. Pike Place Market
2. Water Front/Fisherman Wharf
3. Space Needle/Dale Chihuly Garden and Glass (will not be able to go up the space needle)
4. Ballard Locks
5. Kerry Park
6. Pioneer Square
7. Alki Beach/West Seattle



USS Gambier Bay & USS Kitkun Bay Reunion Registration Form

We welcome the USS Johnson/Hoel to join us

Registrant Information

Date Arriving _____

Please Print

Ship/Squadron _____ Survivor _____ Associate _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Zip _____ Phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Vegetarian? Yes ___ No ___ Food Allergies or Dietary Restrictions? _____

Is this your first time attending a Gambier Bay or Kitkun Bay Reunion? Yes ___ No ___

Guest Information

Date Arriving _____

Relationship _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Vegetarian? Yes? ___ No ___ Food Allergies or Dietary Restrictions? _____

Is this your first time attending a Gambier Bay or Kitkun Bay Reunion? Yes ___ No ___

Event	Day	Cost per person	# attending	Total
<u>Registration Fee by</u>	9/1/2017	\$30		\$
<u>Registration Fee After</u>	9/15/2017	\$40		\$
<u>Seattle City Tour</u>	Fri -10/20	\$59		\$
<u>Banquet-(see choices below)</u>	Sat -10/21	\$40		\$
<u>Luncheon - At Hotel</u> (see choices below)	Sun- 10/22.	\$30		\$

Grand Total. \$ _____

Banquet Entree Choices

Lemon Seared Pacific Salmon Qty & names
(Tarragon Butter sauce, Rice, Seasonal Vegetables) _____

Herb Roasted Tri-Tip of Beef
(Garlic Whipped Mashed Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables) _____

All entrees served with a salad, coffee or tea & Double Tree Signature Dessert

Lunch Entree Choices Qty & names

Sliced Herb Roasted Pork Loin _____
(topped with Dijon Mustard Demi-Glaze, Chef's choice of Potato & Seasonal Vegetables)

Chicken Marsala _____
(topped with Mushrooms and a Rich Demi-Glaze, Chef's choice of Potato & Seasonal Vegetables)

All entrees served with a salad and ice tea

Mail this form with check to Marlene Hughes 2228 E Greenlee Rd, Tucson, AZ 85719

Cut off date for Registration is 9/30/17 Any questions-call 520-326-0747 or mahhome@cox.net

The Latest Scoop from around the

“ Scuttlebutt”

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

USS Gambier/VC-10 & USS Kitkun Bay Reunion 2017 in Seattle, Washington

Save the Date October 19th-23rd 2017

**Please join the Gambier Bay & Kitkun bay Associations Commemorate
the 73rd Anniversary of the Battle of Leyte Gulf**

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

