

SCUTTLEBUTT

A Quarterly Newsletter

March 2016

Presidents Corner

Hello Gambier Bay Family!

Registration is now open for the 2016 USS Gambier Bay/USS Kitkun Bay reunion (New Orleans – September 22-26, 2016). Please find enclosed the registration and hotel information, along with the program and excursion information. We have a fabulous all day excursion, with lunch included, planned for the World War II Museum, (www.nationalww2museum.org).

We now have available the Survivor History Stories from our Taffy III 2014 Reunion in San Diego. at a cost of \$15 each. The DVDs features the following survivors, Alfred White, USS Kitkun Bay, Bob Despain USS Hoel, Frank Murphy USS Fanshaw Bay, Owen Wheeler, USS Gambier Bay, Vern Kimmell, USS Raymond, Frank Graziano, USS Dennis, Jack Bacastow, USS Kitkun Bay, John Oracz, USS Hoel, Bill Klein, USS Heermann, Fred Grabos, USS Gambier Bay, and Don Kurtze, USS Fanshaw Bay. The video is approximately 30 minutes in length, and it also has additional material, such as our excursion to Fort Rosecrans, the memorial service, and still shots of the battle. A great accompaniment to the Oral History DVD would be our DVD from the Taffy III 2014 Reunion memorial service (\$15), which was held aboard the USS Midway. If you were unable to attend the reunion these DVDs are a great way to see how we honor, remember, and recognize our survivors. Shopping our **Ships Store** is one way to help support the Association.

SECOND AND THIRD GENERATION FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS – 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 FOR CONTINUING TO SUPPORT THE ASSOCIATION. OUR MISSION AND GOAL IS TO CONTINUE TO HONOR, RECOGNIZE, AND 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 and all our friends from the USS Kitkun Bay at the 2016 reunion in New Orleans!

Paula LaRocco-Grond
President



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 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



Calvin Housman 01/13/1926 - 08/11/2014 S/2/c

Calvin Housman, age 88, of Petersburg passed away on Monday, August 11, 2014 at Ebeid Hospice in Sylvania. He was born in Petersburg, MI January 13, 1926 the son of James D. Housman and Leda Schmid. He married Eleanor Hagen October 13, 1946. They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1996. He attended Petersburg schools and when he turned 18 he enlisted in the US Navy. He was a ship's cook 3/C. He was stationed on the USS Gambier Bay and the USS Enterprise. He worked at the Ford Motor Company Plant as a Lab Technician. He retired in 1981.

Surviving are his wife Eleanor; son Bradford (Nancy) Housman of Brooklyn, MI; daughter Brenda (Denny) White of Dundee; grandchildren Barton Housman, Stacy (Aaron) Schmitzer, Nita (Marc) Bonilla, Jennifer (Jason) Swinson, Troy and Brian White; great grandchildren Harper Bonilla, Logan and Elizabeth Swinson. He was preceded in death by his parents, his son Barton in 2009, a brother Carl Housman and sister Genevieve Kline. Burial was with military honors by the Summerfield VFW Post 6509 at the Pleasant View Cemetery in Petersburg. (*RIP Calvin we will toll the bell for you at the New Orleans Reunion in September. Thank you for your service*)

William F. Cordner 08/12/1918 - 07/13/2015 Lt.

William Francis Cordner died peacefully at his home at Edgehill in Stamford, CT on July 13, 2015. Born in Winnipeg, Canada on August 12, 1918, he moved at an early age to NJ and lived in Kenilworth and then Cranford until he joined the US Navy in July of 1941. He was a graduate of Amherst College (1940), Columbia Business School (1947) and Harvard Advanced Management Program (1965). After WWII he joined National City Bank, now Citigroup, and worked there most of his career. After 37 years he retired in 1983. He then became a commercial real estate broker in Stamford and worked for 5 years with Beaudry & Company.

During WWII he became Air Ordnance Officer for Squadron VC-10 on the USS Gambier Bay which was sunk off Samar, Philippine Islands on 10/25/1944. He and shipmate survivors spent 48 hours in shark infested waters before being rescued.

He was active in Volunteerism, and his favorite role was serving as Treasurer of the Greenwich Historical Society. He was a member of First Church of Old Greenwich for 50 years.

He and his wife Marian (they had their 73rd wedding anniversary on July 11) were residents of Riverside, CT for 49 years before moving to Edgehill in 2005. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his son, Bill and daughter-in-law, Karyn, and his brother John. He also leaves two granddaughters, Carolyn and Amy and three great granddaughters. He was predeceased by his son Gerald Cordner.

A service of remembrance was held at First Congregational Church of Greenwich in Old Greenwich, CT on August 19, 2015. (*We will toll the bell for you William in New Orleans, thank you for your service and may you rest in peace*).



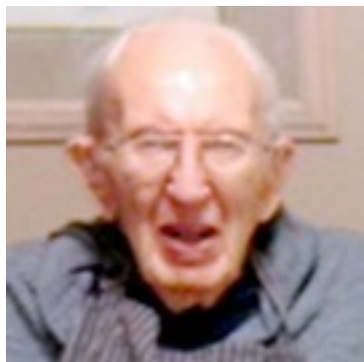
Lydia "Lilly" Ortiz 08/04/1928 - 01/05/2016

Lilly was preceded in death by her husband Jose ("Chaya") Ortiz (2/25/90) he was a Seaman 1/c on the USS Gambier Bay and sons Arnold and Armando & parents.

She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and sister. She worked as a teaching assistant in the Douglas, AZ School District for 19 years. She is survived by her sons Ernesto and Jose Ortiz; daughters Leticia (Tony) Hernandez, Rosanna (Miguel) Montoya, Patricia Ortiz (Pablo), Belinda (Gilbert) Smith and Monica (Juan) Galindo; brother Loreto (Benny) Amaya; sisters Anita Vasquez, Armida (Ramon) Vaca and Irma (Ralph) Rodriguez. She leaves behind 16 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren.

(*We will toll the bell for you Lilly in New Orleans and may you Rest in Peace*)

In Memoriam continued:

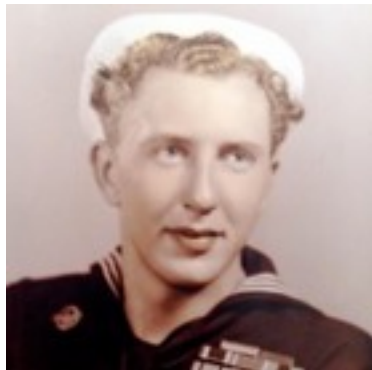


Conrad Gjestvang Jr. 1922-02/3/2016 MM 2/c

Conrad Gjestvang Jr. age 92 of Brooklyn Center passed away on 2/3/2016. He was preceded in death by parents Conrad and Minnie and sister Georgia Lane. Conrad is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Betty; daughters, Katherine (Al) Swanson, Diane Gjestvang and son, Michael. He also leaves 7 grandchildren; 20 great grandchildren. Funeral Service was held on Monday 2/8/16 at 11:00 AM at Hope Lutheran Church, 5200 Emerson Ave. N., Mpls. Visitation was one hour prior to service at the church. Interment was at Glen Haven Cemetery.

Washburn-McReavy.com Glen Haven Chapel

(I was lucky enough to meet Conrad and Betty at our reunion in 2008 in Bloomington, MN. Conrad always sent a donation to the association each year with a little note. We will toll the bell for you at this years reunion in New Orleans. You will be missed by your family as well as your Gambier Bay family. Thank you for your service may you rest in peace)



A. Lee Warren 7/19/1924 - 2/21/2016 RM 3/c

A. Lee Warren, 91, of Paducah, Kentucky formerly of Louisville, Kentucky passed away at 11:20a.m. Sunday, February 21, 2016 at Parkview Nursing and Rehabilitation Center of Paducah. Lee was born in Greensburg, Kentucky on July 19, 1924 to Bert and Grace Warren. He was a retired manager with State Farm Insurance. Lee was past president of the Optimist Club in Louisville, Kentucky and past president of the Country Club of Paducah. He served on the board of Broadway United Methodist Church where he also taught Sunday School for several years. He was a avid golfer and gin rummy player.

Lee served in the United States Navy aboard the USS Gambier Bay during WWII. His ship was sunk during the Battle of Leyte Gulf by a Japanese destroyer. Lee and his surviving shipmates were thrown into the shark infested Pacific Ocean for seventy two hours before being rescued. He received the Purple Heart along with several other medals and the ship received the Presidential Citation for extraordinary heroism in action against the Japanese fleet.

Lee is survived by his wife of sixty-six years, Dorothy Cooksey Warren; one daughter, Robyn (Rudy) Carrico of Paducah, Kentucky; two sons, Randall (Dawn) Warren of Boca Raton, FL and Brandon (Marianne Warren) of Louisville, Kentucky; three grandchildren, Ellen Harris (Brandon) Aders of Fort Valley, VA, Warren Harris of Dallas, TX and Braniann Warren (Eric) Rellinger of Nashville, TN.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Evelyn Kaufman and his parents Bert H. Warren and Gracie P. Skaggs Warren.

Memorial services were on Wednesday, February 24, 2016 at the Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Rev. Joe Beal officiating. Private family burial will be in the Mt. Kenton Cemetery.

(We will toll the bell for you Lee at this years reunion in New Orleans. Thank you for your service and may you rest in peace)

Victor Howard Rose S 1/c Crossed - 12/20/13

Clarence Harold Seever S 2/c Crossed - 2/23/96

Jackie Dale Slycord S 1/c Crossed - 1/22/2008

Weldon Herbert Sparrow CPhoM Crossed- 11/3/2003

Raymond Burnard Shipp S 2/c Crossed -1/10/2008

Murray M. Sacks Ensign Crossed- 9/9/2002



In Memoriam continued:



Douglas Koser 8/5/1925 - 1/06/2016 S 1/c

Koser, Douglas Rolland passed away on January 6, 2016 in Weatherford, TX. Douglas was the oldest of 3 children born in Lincoln, NE on August 5th, 1925 to George Rolland and Margaret (Rathburn) Koser. Doug started his life on a farm assisting his family in the Dairy Business, enlisted into the Navy at the age of 18 to serve his Country in World War II. Assigned as a signalman to the USS Gambier Bay, he survived the sinking of the ship off the island of Samar, Philippines on October 25, 1944 by floating in a net life boat for 2 days in the Pacific Ocean until rescued. Ironically, it was aboard another aircraft carrier the USS Enterprise that he met his future wife Florence (Darrington) Koser, one year to the day of the sinking while docked in the New York harbor during a Navy day celebration. After the war, Douglas and Florence returned to Lincoln where they both worked in the family owned business, Koser Supply Company a Wholesale Plumbing and Heating Company. Upon retirement they moved to Gulf Breeze, Florida so they could continue their passion for playing golf, Doug taught Flo how to golf in their earlier years and both were fierce competitors in the sport. In 1999, they moved to Weatherford, TX to be closer to their daughter Susan and live out their remaining years of their lives together. Their union produced 3 children, Robert, Stephen and Susan, 4 grandchildren, Jason, Henry, Myles and George Koser, and 1 great granddaughter Mia Koser all of which are still surviving, along with his sister Jolene Weart.

Douglas was buried at the National Cemetery, Fort Worth, Texas with honor guard and taps played.

*(His daughter Susan and I have communicated over the last few years making sure Doug got his Scuttlebutt. He was honored to serve on the Gambier Bay. Thank you for your service and we will toll the bell for you at the memorial service in New Orleans in September. Rest in Peace)
Please check out our website to read Doug's account of his experience.*



Harvey O. Yarno 5/28/1925 - 9/4/2015 S 2/c

Harvey O. Yarno, 90 of the Manteno Veterans Home, and formerly of Kankakee, passed away Friday, Sept, 4, 2015 at Presence St Mary's Hospital in Kankakee.

He was born May 28, 1925, in Fowler, IN, the son of Pete and Edna Reimer Yarno. Harvey married Mae E/ Weiss on Dec. 15, 1945, in Bremerton, WA. She preceded him in death on October 25, 2004.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, having served during World WarII in the Pacific Theaters. Harvey retired from the Roper Corp., Kankakee Division. He also had worked at Sinclair Oil Co., was as member of the American Lutheran Church and enjoyed bowling, golfing and playing cards.

Survivors include one son and daughter-in-law, Larry R. and Mary Yarno of Bourbonnais; two grandchildren, Mark and Todd Yarno; six great-grandchildren; and brother and sister-in-law. Leroy and Donna Yarno, of Kankakee.

Preceding him in death were his parents; granddaughter, Jennifer Yarno; and three brothers, William, Richard, and Wayne.

Graveside rites were held in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL.

(I was surprised to learn of Harvey's passing when his December Scuttlebutt was returned to me. Thank you for your service and we will toll a bell for you at this year's memorial service in New Orleans. Rest in Peace.)



Welcome to the 2015 USS Gambier Bay/Kitkun Bay Reunion Information Pages

When: September 22-26th

Where: Crowne Plaza

Rate: \$119 & 12.75% Tax

This rate is good for 3 days before and after reunion.

Call **1-504-467-5611** and advise the reservationist that you are with the USS Gambier Bay/USS Kitkun Bay Reunion so that you are guaranteed the group rate of \$119 & Taxes includes breakfast buffet for 2
Over 2 people in room is \$10.00 per day

Online link to book is <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/GambierKitkun>

Check in is 4pm and check out is 12pm



Check out Crowne Plaza New Orleans Airport Hotel online www.neworleansairporthotel.com

Amenities at the Crowne Plaza

- * Free Parking
- * Complimentary Airport Shuttle Service
- * High Speed dataport connectivity
- * High-speed internet Access Complimentary to IHG Rewards Club Members
- * 42" flat screen TV, in-room movies, coffee maker, hair-dryer, make up mirror, iron/ironing board.
- * All rooms are non-smoking
- * The hotel has an outdoor pool & hot tub, 24 Hr. fitness center, ATM & Safety Deposit Boxes
- * A Lobby Lounge which offers a selection of beverages & cocktails with a food menu from 4pm-11pm
- * Complimentary hot breakfast buffet for up to 2 guests per guest room each day.

The cut off for hotel reservations is **August 29, 2016** after that date the block of rooms will be released. Make your reservation early and if you need to cancel it can be done by calling the hotel 72 hrs prior to check in and getting a cancellation number.

We can give you a refund for the registration fee but not for the tours, the tours have to be prepaid

Things to Do in New Orleans, LA

New Orleans offers so many things to do that it's difficult to share in simple text. Why not check out the convention bureau's website and watch some video's to get a few inspirational ideas on what to see or do while you are in New Orleans. www.neworleanscvb.com

You might like to take a food tour, cemetery tour, ghost city tour or check out the French Quarter day or night.



Cafe Du Monde

Reunion Itinerary

- Thurs - Sept 22nd- Hospitality room open by 3pm in The Landings room-Check in and Welcome Reception will be from 6pm till 10PM in the Grand Ballroom 5 & 6.**
- Friday- Sept 23rd - 8:30AM-4:00PM-National WWII Museum includes movie and box lunch.**
- Friday- Sept 23rd- Dinner on your own**
- Sat - Sept 24th- Board Meetings in AM. Time to be determined**
- Sat - Sept 24th - Banquet 6PM till 11PM in Grand Ballroom Salon 4**
- Sun - Sept 25th - 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 reception on the Thursday evening of the 22nd.**
- 2. Friday of the 23rd is open to enjoy the hospitality room or take the National WWII Museum tour and seeing a movie and having a box lunch or doing your own site seeing. Dinner will be on your own.**
- 3. Saturday, the 24th is open to enjoy the hospitality room, take a dip in the pool or take a visit the French Quarter. 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 some outstanding musical entertainment.

- 4. Sunday, the 25th of September, the memorial service will be at 11AM 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 9/1/2015.



Board of Governors & Officers

2013-2015

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
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Telephone: 972-489-7281
E-Mail: lauren.bagen.buhl@gmail.com
3. Marlene Hughes, Treasurer
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Tucson, AZ 85719-2012
Telephone: 520-326-0747
E-Mail: mahhome@cox.net
4. Linda Shimerda, Secretary
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Telephone: 210-680-1574
E-Mail: kayshimer@yahoo.com
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Telephone: 860-816-4236
E-Mail: phanchap@live.com
6. Tom Westbrook, Governor
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E-Mail: westpony@yahoo.com
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9. Susan Turner, Governor
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Longmont, CO 80503
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Email: turnersusan31@gmail.com
10. Mark Heintl, Governor
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Telephone: 419-678-8168
E-Mail: heintl_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.

Jim & Val Smurda

*Judy Devries
Clete Ring
David Evans
Jan Loomis
Peter Deberardinis
Marlene Hughes
Donald Elsmann
Gary Epping
Paul Honeycutt
Lucille Gutzwiler
June Patti
Mary Pappas
Diane Stewart
Conrad Gjestvang*



USS George H. W. BUSH

USS Gambier Bay/Kitkun Bay 2016 Reunion Registration Form

Please Print

Name: _____

Spouse or Guest (s) Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State/Zip _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

Ship Represented: _____ Survivor _____ Associate _____ Special Needs: _____

Please indicate with an * next to the name if this is the persons first reunion. Use additional paper if necessary.

Make checks payable to: USS Gambier Bay Assoc.

Event	Day	Cost per person	# Attending	Total
Registration Fee by 8/01/2016		\$85		\$
Registration Fee by 8/31/2016		\$95		\$
Tour to WWII National Museum with lunch /send in by 9/1/16 Please see tour sheet on details	Fri- 9/23	\$58 WWII Vets \$39.50		\$

Box Lunch/Tour	Qty	Name
Cane glazed Ham on Kaiser Roll		
Slow roasted Beef on Kaiser Roll		

Registration fee includes Dinner Banquet, entertainment, Luncheon, welcome reception and printing of Memorial Service programs.

Grand Total: \$ _____

Banquet Entree Choices	Qty	Name
Grilled Salmon		
Herb crusted Porkloin		
Includes salad, starch, veggie, dessert & beverage		

Please mail this form with payment to:

USS Gambier Bay/Vc-10 Assoc.

c/o Marlene Hughes
2228 E Greenlee Rd
Tucson, AZ 85719-2012

Phone: 520-326-0747

Email: mahhome@cox.net

Luncheon Entree Choices	Qty	Name
Pecan Crusted Chicken		
Blackened Gulf Fish		
Includes salad, starch, veggie, dessert & beverage		

**Any questions regarding the reunion call me.
Cut off date for registration is 9/1/16 and hotel is 10/1/2016**

National WWII Museum Tour Information

Friday September 23, 2016: 8:45AM – 4:00 PM

- * **PLEASE NOTE: All WW II Vets will get into the Museum for free plus the movie so your ticket price is \$39.50**
- * **Board the motor coach at 8:45Am and depart for the museum**
- * **9:00 am Group arrival- Self visit galleries in Louisiana Memorial, Campaigns of Courage and US Freedom Pavilions.**
- * **11:00am Movie Beyond All Boundaries in Solomon Victory Theater- Please arrive at theatre at least 10 minutes before start time to ensure entry. Movie is a 4D journey through the war that changed the world. This movie is not recommended for children under 10.**

Elements of the movie may aggravate certain medical conditions. These elements include loud noises, flashing lights, fog effects and sudden chair movements. Stationary seating is available.

No food or beverage is allowed into the theatre.

- * **Last minute participants will be accommodated on a space-available basis only, and ticket prices on site will be an additional \$3.00 per person.**

All participants who do not show for their tour will not be refunded their money. This price is based on a minimum of 35 people per tour.



Mail Call



Sent to Paula from Jim and Val Smurda

12/29/2015

Dear Paula:

Just wanted to send a quick note to thank you once again for the gesture of the reunion packet. It was really nice of you to send it. Val and I both went through it, eagerly I might add, and did enjoy looking at all of its contents.

We are enclosing a check payable to the association. I am sure you and Marlene will be able to find a worthy cause within the association for its use. My mother, and John's would like that.

Next years convention is on our mind and really hope we will be able to attend. We wanted to this year, but sometime even us old retirees find ourselves a day late and a dollar short. Hopefully the "Big Easy" will be "easy" for us to attend.

Went online and looked at all the photos of this years reunion and was pleased to see Norm made it but did not see pictures of Fred. Hope he is well.

Must run for now. Our daughter and her family are visiting from Elk Grove, CA. and will be showing up for dinner soon. They took the boys to White Sands. Tomorrow Val and I will go to snow country with them for the day. Val's leg is much better but she can't afford to overtax it yet.

Anyway, thanks again and hopefully we will see you in "New Orleans."

Jim and Val Smurda *(Hoping to see you both in New Orleans)*

Received from Sally Loats

1/16/2016

Dear Marlene

Thanks so much, received the note cards yesterday. Take care to you both and have a Happy New Year with good health. We are doing ok, one day at a time.

Best wishes

Sally *(We always wish for the best for you and Norm, tell him he is missed)*

Sent to Paula fro Steve Mike Pribisko

12/16/15

Dear Paula,

I am trying to find out more information about my uncle : Mike John Pribisko who was a Fireman First Class on the Gambier Bay. He was killed in action on 25 October, 1944.

I would really like to know how he was killed ... above or below deck or anything you can tell me about my uncle Mike who I never got to meet or know. My dad, Steve G Pribisko served in the Army in Hawaii as a baker. I think he was assigned this duty because of his brother Mike's duty on the Gambier Bay.

Whatever you could tell me about Mike or anyone who is still alive who knew Mike would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you so much!!

Best regards,

Steve Mike Pribisko

(Steve, hopefully one of your Uncle's shipmates will remember waht happened. I lost my uncle also on October 26,1944 from wounds and he was the Ship's cook 1/c. Hope you can see you way clear to come to the reunion in New Orleans in Sept.)

Received from Judy Marlene Smith Davis *(Judy's cousin Ernest J Smith was KIA-GM 2/c)*

1/8/16

Marlene,

Thank you for all you do to keep alive the memory of the USS Gambier Bay and her crew members.

Hope you have a wonderful year in 2016.

Best regards,

Judy

(Thanks Judy, I enjoy what I do, it is a labor of love.)

Mail Call continued

Sent to Paula from Miguel Montoya
1/14/16



I came across your site looking for information on my grandfather who was aboard the ship. I have attached a picture of him. Jose Ortiz is his name and hope you are able to add this to the collections of photos on the website.

Thank you, (Paula let Miguel know we would put the picture up on the website and explained about the organization.
Miguel Montoya He also let us know about the passing of his grandmother Lily Ortiz-see obituaries)
Tucson, AZ

Sent to Paula & Marlene from Steve & Nancy Ring
2/22/16

We just watched a video of dad talking about his Navy life and his time aboard the Gambier Bay and the Battle. He talked to some grade school children in Plain, Wisconsin last year. If you talk to him tell him to send you a video. I think they were 10.00.

The video could have been done better as the ending should have been in the beginning but that doesn't matter. It was a good interview and the kids asked him question after.

Clete is holding his own right now. Very tired and sleeps a lot but we are blessed every day he is still with us.

Steve & Nancy (We are hoping you are doing better Clete. Love to you from your girls, Paula & Marlene)

1/1/2016

I called Mike Towstik on January 1st for his birthday and he is doing ok as he puts it for a 94 yr old. It was great to talk to Mike. We have missed him at the reunions. He and his nephew Rudy were instrumental in having myself and Paula join the association.

Love to you Mike.

Marlene

The picture below is of the S Division from the USS Gambier Bay taken sometime in 1944.

My uncle Leonard G. Martin Ships Cook 1st Class is in the first row second from the left.

Norman Loats Storekeeper 3rd Class is in the third row second from the right.



^

^

If anyone does recognize someone please let me know. I am pretty sure Dean Moel is in this picture but can't find him.

Why We Call a Ship a She

By Rear Admiral Francis D. Foley, U.S. Navy (Retired)
Naval History, December 1998

A salty retired U.S. Navy flag officer shuns the current trend toward polical correctness.

Ships are referred to as "she" because men love them, but this encompasses far more than just that. Man-o'-war or merchantman, there can be a great deal of bustle about her as well as a gang of men on deck, particularly if she is slim-waisted, well-stacked, and has an inviting superstructure. It is not so much her initial cost as it is her upkeep that makes you wonder where you founder.

She is greatly admired when freshly painted and all decked out to emphasize her cardinal points. If an aircraft carrier, she will look in a mirror when about to be arrested, and will wave you off if she feels you are sinking too low or a little too high, day or night. She will not hangar around with duds, but will light you off and launch you into the wild blue yonder when you muster a full head of steam.

Even a submarine reveals her topsides returning to port, heads straight for the buoys, knows her pier, and gets her breast-lines out promptly if she is single-screwed. On departure, no ship leaves port asleep, she always leaves awake. She may not mind her helm or answer to the old man when the going gets rough, and can be expected to kick up her heels on a family squall. A ship costs a lot to dress, sometimes blows a bit of smoke, and requires periodic overhauls to extend her useful life.

Some have a cute fantail, others are heavy in the stern, but all have double-bottoms which demand attention. When meeting head-on, sound a recognition signal; whistle! If she does not answer up, come about and start laying alongside, but watch to see if her ship is slowing . . . perhaps her slip is showing? Then proceed with caution until danger of collision is over and you can fathom how much latitude she will allow.

If she does not remain on an even keel, let things ride, feel your way, and do not cross the line until you determine weather the "do" point is right for a prolonged blast. Get the feel of the helm, stay on the right tact, keep her so, and she will pay off handsomely. If she is in the roaring forties, however, you may be in the dangerous semi-circle, so do not expect much "luff," especially under bare poles. She may think you are not under command or control and shove off.

If she edges aweigh, keep her steady as she goes, but do not sink into the doldrums. Just remember that "to furnish a ship requireth much trouble, but to furnish a woman the cost is double!" To the women who now help us "man" our ships, my apologies for the foregoing. Only the opening phrase presents my true feelings. After all, a ship's bell(e) will always remain her most prized possession, and every good ship has a heart, just like yours.

A trick at the wheel, like you, would have been welcome aboard when I was on "she" duty for 40 years. May God bless you all, sweetheart!

Admiral Foley is a long-time contributor to Naval History and the U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings. He lives in Annapolis, Maryland.

Good Point! At Naval History's editorial offices, in the presence of the author, the editor reacted to the above with a resounding: "Most of our readers will love it; the women will hate it!" Coincidentally, the U.S. Naval Institute's chief financial officer, obviously sensitive to such statements, overheard and inquired: "The women will hate what?" She then heard of plans to publish "Why We Call a Ship a She." Unaware of the author's presence, she asked: "If they call ships she, then why do they name them Arleigh Burke?" To that, Admiral Foley responded, "Good point!"



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