

SCUTTLEBUTT

A Quarterly Newsletter

July 2019

Presidents Corner

Hello Gambier Bay Family!

Registration is continuing for our 2019 Taffy 3 Reunion hosted by the USS Gambier Bay (San Diego – October 24-27, 2019). Please find enclosed all the necessary information for registration, hotel, memorial service, and our excursion. Be sure to get your registration in before September 1, 2019 to benefit from the discounted registration fee! Registration will close on September 23, 2019. This will be the last reunion hosted by the USS Gambier Bay/VC-10 Association.

We have five survivors from our ship coming with their families, Carl Amundson, Darrell Bennett, George Feliz, Norm St. Germain, and Dean Moel.

The Association Board of Governors has voted to cover the fee for registration and hotel accommodations for three days for our USS Gambier Bay/VC-10 survivors who attend the reunion. If you have questions, [please contact Marlene Hughes at mahome@cox.net](mailto:mahome@cox.net).

FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS – Please remember we have tons of merchandise in our ship store, such as women's Bling Shirts, men's polo shirts, our Men of the USS Gambier Bay book, hats, a special item for you to personalize – a memory granite tile, as well as a limited amount of our DVDs - - the 2014 Taffy 3 Memorial Service (aboard the USS Midway), the Oral History of our Survivors from the 2014 reunion, and the NRA Life of Duty stories of Norm St. Germain and Fred Grabos (Fred crossed the bar in June 2017).. We also have available a few of our lithograph – The Freedom's Cost.

Website - - www.ussgambierbay.org - - it has been growing and growing! Thank you, thank you to all family members who have submitted photos, stories, and articles. As you know, it is up to us as second and third generation to keep the website going so we can continue to recognize, honor, and remember all who served on the USS Gambier Bay/VC-10. We are always looking for new stories, articles, and photos to add to the website, (young Gambier Bay sailors in their uniform, photos from their lives, such as work, wedding, family, or special events). If you have photos or stories you would like to submit, **please reach out to me at pk_grond@yahoo.com**.

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.

I look forward to seeing you at our last 2019 Taffy 3 reunion in San Diego!

Paula LaRocco-Grond
President





In Memoriam

Shipmates who have crossed the Bar

Shirley L. Turner March 23, 1924-April 1, 2019



Shirley Louise Turner, formerly Martin, born March 23, 1924, a Colorado native from a farm near Delta who married John I. "Jack" Turner from Salida, a World War II carrier pilot, on February 15, 1944, passed away on April 1, 2019. A representative of the "greatest generation," during her 67-year marriage lived mostly in Denver where Jack was a commercial pilot. She saw four children: Susan Turner, Bruce Turner, Donn Turner, Anne Becker; nine grandkids: Andrew Perry, Carissa Perry, Hadrien Turner, Alixe Turner, Kyle Turner, Leah Turner, Kara Turner, Jackie Becker and John Becker; and two Great grandkids Alexandra Perry, Savannah Perry, most of whom still reside in Colorado, come into the world. She was a tom-boy happiest in or looking at her beloved mountains, but also an avid traveler and reader. As a devoted mother, she instilled in all those who followed her the values of family, education, moral integrity, and perseverance. An accomplished horse rider in her youth, she bounced back from all but her final fall. Her last mandate to her loved ones was not to grieve, but to live their own lives to the fullest, love each other, and look forward. She was humbly grateful for her own fulfilled life. We shall miss her. *(Shirley always a twinkle in her eye especially for Jack who was a V-10 Pilot, we will miss and toll the bell for you in October.)*

Warren G. Smith July 31, 1925-September 21, 2016. F 1/c



Warren G. Smith, age 91, of Lore City, passed away on Wednesday, September 21, 2016 at Countryview Assisted Living Center. He was born on July 31, 1925 in Summerfield, Ohio, a son of the late Harley Smith and Lillian Gulick Smith.

Mr. Smith served his country in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He was a farmer, he had raised beef, hogs and dairy. He was a School Bus Driver for East Guernsey School District for 27 years and had been a Wills Township Trustee for 3 terms. Warren had also worked at Vanadium Corporation.

He leaves his wife of 67 years, Betty (Everly) Smith; four sons, David (Randi Berger) Smith of Lore City, Robert (Kim) Smith of Fairview, John (Rhonda) Smith of Lore City and Dale (Teresa) Smith of Lore City; one daughter Jennifer Smith of Cambridge; a brother Harry (Joyce) Smith of Marietta; a sister-in-law Wanda Smith; eleven grandchildren, Christina (Mark) Swain, David Smith, Rebecca Randles, Zachary Smith, Brandon (Britney) Nealy, Derek (Amanda) Smith, Britney Smith, Brandin Caulley, Kailey King, Sarah Davis and Donald Davis; ten great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents and a brother Donald Smith.

Memorial visitation from 12-1 pm on Monday, September 26, 2016 at Bundy-Law Funeral Home. A memorial service will be held at 1 pm with Pastor Wesley Jones officiating. Military honors will performed by the Guernsey County Veterans Council. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Guernsey / P.O. Box 11 65 / Cambridge, Ohio 43725. Warren's online tribute wall may be viewed and signed at www.bundy-lawfuneralhome.com. *(Rest in Peace Warren and we will toll the bell for you in October)*



In Memoriam continued

Frances Margaret Bennett June 16,1923-February 5, 2019



Mrs. Frances Bennett, "Fran" of Gulf Breeze, Florida passed to the Lord peacefully on 2/5/2019 in her home. Fran was born in Evanston, Illinois on June 16, 1923. She was a graduate of New Trier High School in Winnetka, Illinois and went on to become a Dental Hygienist until the beautiful day she met the love of her life, Darrell Bennett. They married in December of 1944 and had a beautiful life together for 74 wonderful years. She was a wonderful housewife and raised two amazing sons while Darrell was a Pilot for the U.S. Navy for 25 years.

Fran was preceded in death by her mother, Angela and her father, John and her sister, Mary.

Our beloved wife, mom, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and auntie, survived by her husband, Darrell; her two son's, John and James, as well as 7 grand-children And 14 great-grandchildren.

Per Fran's wishes, there will be no services. In Fran's behalf, a donation to the Pensacola [Breast Cancer Association \(www.thinkpinkpensacola.org\)](http://www.thinkpinkpensacola.org) or the local ASPCA (www.asPCA.org) would be greatly appreciated, in lieu of flowers. (Rest in Peace and the bell will be tolled for you in October)

I found these shipmates on Ancestry who crossed the bar.

Charles Basil Zalewski January 27, 1918-November 5, 2005 F 1/c

Roy Williams August 24, 1920-August 1975 SC 3/c

Kendall J Whitney October 21, 1922-December 30, 1997 S 1/c

Thomas G Williams June 15, 1921-January 26, 2001 S 1/c

Kenneth B Thompson. May 30,1925-October 17, 1995 SK 3/c

Jack E Stewart March 21, 1926-June 24, 1994 S 2/c

Leodis Smith January 28,1925-May 24, 1996 StM 1/c

Robert Bradford Paddock, 96, of Kailua-Kona died April 14 at Kona Community Hospital. Born in Springfield, Mass., he was Texaco consignee for the Big Island, member of Keauhou Yacht Club, The Club water aerobics and U.S. Navy veteran who served on the USS Gambier Bay. Military honors 2 p.m. Sunday, June 2, at Keauhou boat ramp followed by departure on Fairwind for scattering of ashes. Casual attire; flowers welcome. For more information, call Lori at 989-2001. Survived by daughters, Lori Paddock of Kailua-Kona and Caryn Nelson of Oregon; six grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. Arrangements by Dodo Mortuary. (Robert served on the Gambier Bay as a Aviation Machinist's Mate 3/c and led a catapult crew,

he got in an argument with the officer in charge which turned physical. The officer wanted him to increase pressure which if he had done so, not only the plane and its pilot would have been lost, the the ship would have endured catastrophic damage. The Navy brass handed down a non judicial punishment. The authorities determined he was right about not increasing pressure but he had struck an officer. He was shipped back to Hawaii roughly two weeks before the Gambier Bay was sunk and was eventually assigned to work on Ford Island.) Rest in Peace Robert.



**Board of Governors & Officers
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Telephone: 541-736-6759
12. Dean Moel, Governor
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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 Kuster
Philip Young
Billie Schowengerdt
Julie Alves*



Mail Call



E-mail from Craig & Brenda Green
4/5/2019
Alfredo P. White (USS Kitkun Bay)

Dear Marlene,

We wanted to let you and the Shipmates that he thought the world of know that Al went to be with the Lord on Tues April 2nd. He is having a gravesite service today at 2p.m. in Fredonia, KS. Thank you! Brenda & Craig Green (Grandchildren of Al)

(We got to know Al since 2014 when we had combined reunions with the Kitkun Bay, he was a ball of fire. Rest in Peace Al and the bell will be tolled for you at the Taffy 3 Reunion in October.)

E-mail from Susan Turner
4/5/2019

Mom unexpectedly died Monday, April 1, 2019, just days after her 95th birthday.

She will be buried at Fort Logan at 11AM today with dad. We will have a service at 1 PM at her residence, Windcrest. Her obituary can be found at horancares.com.

The Tuner Family is heart-broken.

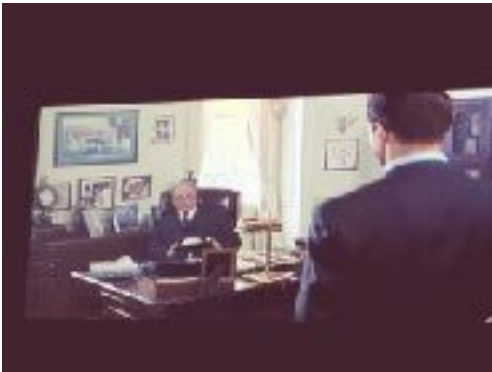
With love to all,

Susan (The Gambier Bay family sends your entire family our condolences. We have missed Shirley at the last 4 reunions, may she rest in Peace.

A message on our Facebook page
From Pam Jehling 5/30/19

Just a note of interest. Did you know that the original Gambier Bay picture that is on the cover of the Men of the Gambier Bay book, can be seen in the movie Clear and Present Danger with Harrison Ford, approximately 16 minutes into the movie.

(Very cool Pam, thank you for sharing-had no idea.)



E-Mail sent to Paula Grond
5/23/2019

Hello Paula, Finally getting back to you about Uncle Rex I've been reading in his Scuttlebutts about the GB association, and the GB crew for so many years it's almost like you and Marlene are my cousins. Seeing almost all of the old guys leaving us with each passing year, I so appreciate any time I get to spend with my Uncle, and any other WWII vet. Uncle Rex knows about the Reunion in San Diego, but he says he's just not up to it right now. I told him he might feel better in October, "well I might be dead then too." We'll see what happens.

He says it's OK for you all to call him @(580) 540-8378.

Bye for now,

Rex Kerr

(Rex-please say hello to your Uncle for us. We sure do hope that he is up to coming to the reunion in October. He can sign up and he can cancel his registration by 10/20 and receive a refund and with the hotel you only have to cancel 24 hrs ahead of your arrival. Hope that information helps make a decision.Thanks for the link on the newscast about Rex)

<http://via.kfor.com/ylto3>

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: _____

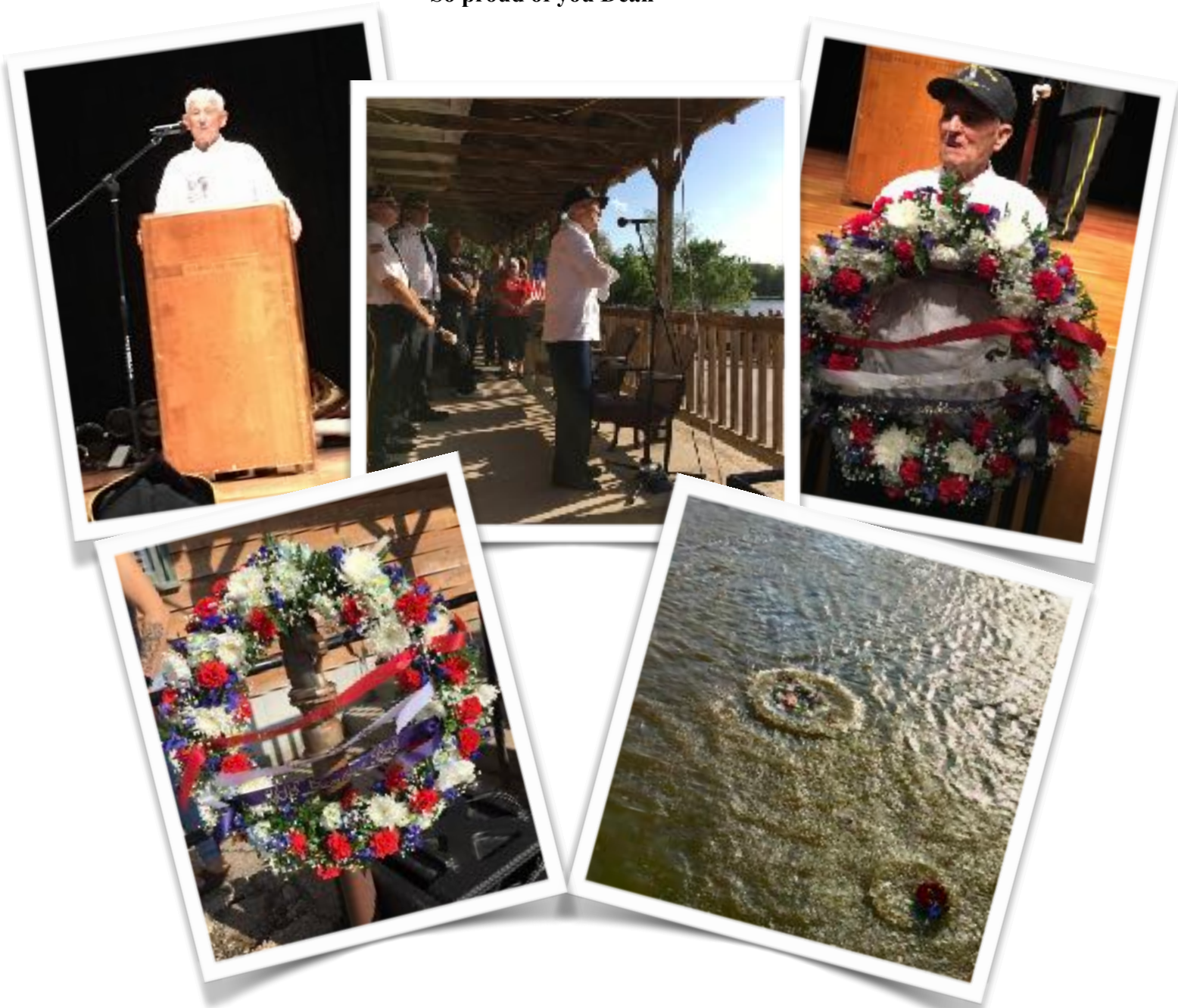
Crossed the Bar Date: _____

Survivor Rank/Rate: _____ **Division:** _____

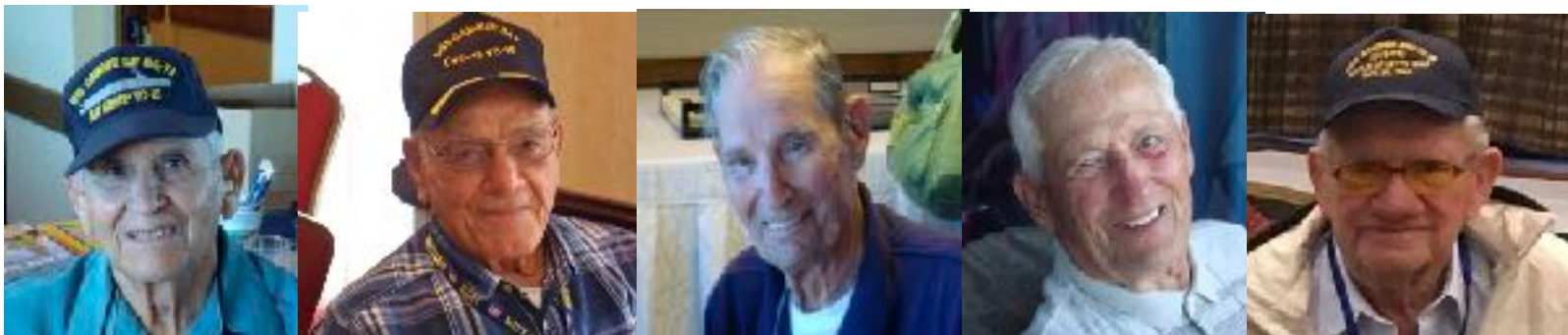
Member relationship to survivor: _____

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

Dean Moel spoke at the Solon Legion Memorial Service. The memorial wreath says God Bless the Crew of the USS Gambier Bay. Middle picture is Dean speaking at the Sutliff Memorial Service where Dean and his daughters Linda and Patti and son Jack threw the wreath into the river in honor of those who never made it home. So proud of you Dean



Here are our 5 survivors who are coming to the 75th Taffy 3 Anniversary in October
George Feliz Norm St Germain Darrell Bennett Dean Moel Carl Amundson



Welcome to the Taffy III 75th Reunion Information Pages

When: October 23-28th

Where: Holiday Inn Bayside, San Diego

Rate: \$129 & Tax= \$145.24

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

Comps- Free Parking, complimentary airport shuttle, High Speed internet service, 37 " TV, coffee maker, hair-dryer, mini refrigerator, iron/ironing board. There is a 9 hole Putting course, Exercise room, Ping-pong, Shuffleboard, Pool, Jacuzzi and complimentary rental bikes w/helmets.



A sign up sheet will be available in the Hospitality Room to use the shuttle for shopping. The Point Loma Cafe is next to the lobby and serves Breakfast & Lunch from 6am-1:30pm. Seniors enjoy a 10% discount.

The Bayside Bar is behind the Point Loma Cafe, opens at 1:30 and serves Lunch and Dinner until 11pm. Dine inside or enjoy their tropical patio with fire pits.

They serve complimentary happy hour hors d'oeuvres Mon-Fri. from 5pm to 6:30pm.

Right across the street are nearby restaurants, Pizza Nova and Jimmys Famous American Tavern and many with a 1 mile radius of the hotel. A convenience store and gift shop are on the hotel property.

The cut off for reservations is October 2, 2019. You may make reservations by calling 1-800-662-8899 or 619-224-3621. Our Group code is TAF-make sure you give them the code for the rate. If you want to book online here is the link [Taffy 3 USS Gambier Bay CVE73 room reservations at Holiday Inn Bayside](#) Remember you can use your Priority Rewards number with this rate.

Airport Shuttle Service:

If you are arriving by plane call 619-224-3621 after you have collected your luggage and the hotel will instruct you on where to pick up the shuttle.

It depends on which terminal you are in.

City tour of San Diego -Sat October 26th 9:00AM

The tour will visit the Taffy 3 Memorial and the Bob Hope Memorial, downtown, with time to explore and take pictures. Then proceed over the Coronado Bridge and stop at the Coronado Beach with nearby restrooms. The narrated tour would pass by the famous Del Coronado Hotel, then a tour of Balboa Park.

The tour would pass through the historic Gaslamp district and drop off those who would like to go Seaport Village to have lunch on their own and shop in many one of a kind shops.

Those on this tour that would like to return to the hotel without the Seaport Village stop, will be brought back to the hotel, after the others are dropped at Seaport Village.

This tour will return back to the hotel between 1:30 - 2:00 P.M.

Santee Park -Sat October 26th - If you have your own vehicle and want to witness the model builders remotely maneuvering the 13 ships they built on Santee Lake, we will have directions to Santee Park in the hospitality room. It will take approximately 40-45 minutes to get there, make sure to leave around 9am. 13 ships plus the Yamato will be on display in The Point Loma Room (bottom floor of the tower) Thursday and Friday before taking them to Santee Lake on Sat.



Reunion Itinerary

Thurs - Oct. 24th - Hospitality room open by 1pm-Check in and reception will be in the Bayside Room from 5pm till 7PM.

In the Point Loma room(bottom floor of the tower) will be a display of all 13 ships in Taffy 3. They were built By a group of experienced, volunteer, and professional model ship builders in 1:96 scale and they are remote controlled. They will be displayed all day Friday as well.

Friday - Oct. 25th - Memorial Service at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery- Board buses at the hotel at 8:45 A.M. (Boarding will begin immediately with the first two rows on each bus designated for Handicap.)

Departure of all buses will commence at 9:15 A.M., with all buses departing and traveling in succession. The buses will arrive at 9:45- we will work at short distance to the chairs for the service to start at 10:00 A. M.

After the Memorial Service , we will have an opportunity to walk across the street to view and photograph some of the Taffy 3 monuments and then re-board the buses and proceed a short distance to visit the other area of Taffy 3 Monuments.

We will re-board the buses and arrive back at the hotel at 12 P.M.

Friday- Oct. 25th - 12:30 P.M.- Luncheon in the Bayside Ballroom

Friday-Oct. 25th- Hospitality room open at 3-10PM

Friday- Oct. 25th- Dinner on your own

Sat- Oct. 26th. 9AM-4PM Hospitality Room open

Sat - Oct. 26th- City tour departs hotel at 9:00 A.M. Anyone wishing to go to Santee Lake via own vehicle to see motorized ship models in action should leave at 9 A.M. (see information pages about tour and Santee Lake)

Sat- Oct. 26th- 6 -11PM Banquet in Bayside Ballroom

Sun - Oct. 27th - 9AM-10pm Hospitality room will be open all day.

The Hospitality Room will be on the 5th floor overlooking San Diego Bay. We will be selling tokens for drinks in the hospitality room. This room also has a full length balcony. It will be open every day during the reunion except for the banquet, memorial service and luncheon.

Aerial View of Holiday Inn



This is the Harbor View Room/ Hospitality Room



Make your reservations for the hotel right away-there are other ships from Taffy III joining us.

Reunion Details

1. Be sure to attend the reception on the evening of the 24th. A recognition of each ship is planned and maybe a waving of hats from the survivors. Hospitality room open til 10PM.
2. Friday, October 25th will be a meaningful day. We will board buses starting at 8:45AM to go to Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery for our Memorial Service. The program will start at 10AM.

After the memorial service and checking out the Taffy 3 monuments we will return to the hotel for a luncheon in the Bayside Ballroom at 12:30pm. Dinner will be on your own, plenty of restaurants within a mile of the Hotel.

4. Saturday, October 26th if you have signed up for the tour, the bus will leave at 9am. If you have a vehicle and want to go see the ship models in action you should leave at 9am (it should take about 40-45 mins to get to Santee Lake). Otherwise the Hospitality Room will be open or there are plenty of things to see and do in San Diego on your own.

On this evening the banquet will take place from 6-11PM. A great meal is planned and entertainment with a raffle. Each ship will be donating a gift card and there will be a couple of free nights raffled off as well. We will also have a 50/50 Raffle.

5. If anyone needs a wheelchair or walker or scooter here are the company's in San Diego you can call to rent one. The hotel has only one-it is on a first come basis.

A. Eric's Medical Supply (619-298-9640) www.ericomedicalsupply.com

B. Scootaround Mobility Solutions (1-888-441-7575) www.scootaround.com

C. Point Loma Pharmacy (619-223-7171)

Please plan on spending time in the hospitality room with the view of San Diego Bay.

Very Important- Please send in your registration early because once we have reached 240 people we will not accept anymore. If for any reason you have to cancel you will be refunded your registration grand total up until October 20th.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING ITEMS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE RAFFLE.

Any questions, comments please contact Marlene Hughes. (520-326-0747 or mahhome@cox.net). Please get your registrations in as early as possible by 9/1/2019

Taffy III 75th 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 on another sheet of paper who is coming to the reunion (family) so you can be seated together, especially if they are sending their registration separately

Event	Day	Cost per person	# Attending	Total
Registration Fee by 9/1/2019 includes Bus to Memorial Service on 10/25/2019		\$50		\$
Registration Fee after 9/1/2019 Cutoff is 9/23/2019		\$55		\$
Luncheon - At hotel (see choices below)	Fri - 10/25	\$44		\$
City Tour (see in information pages)	Sat - 10/26	\$50		\$
Banquet (see choices below)	Sat - 10/26	\$50		\$
Welcome reception is included in Registration fee	Thurs-10/24			\$

Grand Total: \$ _____

Banquet Entree Choices	Qty.
Grilled Halibut	
Roast Pork Loin	
Fettuccine Beef Bourguignon	
Grilled Vegetable Wellington	

Please make checks payable to Taffy III Reunion and mail this form with payment to:
Marlene Hughes
2228 E Greenlee Rd
Tucson, AZ 85719-2012

Phone: 520-326-0747
 Email: mahhome@cox.net

Any questions regarding the reunion please contact me by phone or e-mail
Cut off date for registration and tour is 9/23/19

Cut off for hotel is 10/2/2019

Luncheon Entree Choices	Qty
Poached Salmon	
Chicken Marsala	
Grilled Vegetable Tower	

The Latest Scoop from around the

“ Scuttlebutt”

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

TAFFY III 75th Reunion 2019 in San Diego, California

Save the Date Oct 23-28th 2019

**Please come join the Gambier Bay Association Commemorate
the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Leyte Gulf**

**Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews.
Let them be aware of the last greatest Naval battle in WWII.**

