



USS Gunston Hall LSD 5

Words from the Chairman ...

Hello fellow shipmates.

I would just like to say hello to all of our members in the Gunston Hall Reunion Association and thank all of you who were able to attend our reunion held this last April in Las Vegas. Everyone seemed to have a good time and your attendance was greatly appreciated.

One of my greatest challenges will be to increase our member's attendance and give shipmates more of an opportunity to meet and see some of their old buddies who served with them on the Gunny Sack. Increasing attendance by members from all the years that the ship was on active duty would be the ideal situation so that each member could relate to someone who served with them. Unfortunately in our situation that is not entirely possible as the passing years will make our membership decrease unless we are able to contact many of the shipmates that have not been located and interest them in becoming a member.

Before going any further I would like to express my thanks and gratitude for all of the efforts of one man without whose sacrifices and hard work this association would not exist. Of course I am talking about Bill Greene. Bill has personally taken us from nothing to where we are today and I am sure all of our members join with me in extending a big THANK YOU for all his hard work. I have just experienced a small part of what Bill has been doing for over ten years. Believe me, not many people would be willing and able to put in the many hours of work required to keep this organization running so efficiently. Bill has helped me tremendously in

REUNION '05

The polls are closed and the votes have been tallied. The most popular selection is Las Vegas with San Diego in second place (not counting the "Anywhere" votes). Al-

making this transition as easy as possible.

We are also hoping to bring our newsletter online so that many of our members who are internet connected can read it at their leisure and in the process we can save considerable money in reduced postage and mailing costs. Naturally any member who does not have computer access will continue to receive his copy mailed to his residence. In this regard I would like all members to contact me either by phone, email or letter and provide me with their current address, phone number, e mail address and any other pertinent information that would be useful. When the July newsletter went out many copies were returned because of an incorrect address. Many were not forwarded and this only results in wasting postage stamps and the member not receiving his newsletter. So please provide me with all your current information including your e mail address as I would like to make our newsletter available to as many internet connected people as possible so that we could cut down on our mailing costs and use that money elsewhere.

We need to have input from the members such as some interesting sea stories, pictures, humorous stories or jokes that are printable, etc. The newsletter is only as good as the material that is contained in it and it is for ALL of the members so if you have any ideas that will make our newsletter more interesting and enjoyable please contact me. I am open to any and all suggestions in ways that we can make our newsletter as informing and interesting as possible.

though there are a few of us that would rather have the reunion elsewhere, Las Vegas is a good choice if for no other reason than it is generally cheaper than most other

sites and the location makes it accessible and a less expensive trip for a lot of shipmates.

It is noteworthy that "Anyplace" received the second highest number of votes. Most of us are more interested in spending some time together than being in any specific place. The selection process was simply the membership vote as approved at the last reunion. If anyone has a better idea for selecting sites for future reunions, let's have it for consideration at this reunion.

All of the details are yet to be determined and your thoughts and suggestions are solicited. The more input, the better the result. There have been suggestions for card tournaments (pinochle, poker and bridge have been mentioned). Also, there has been interest expressed to have activities that would involve all of us ... local tours, day trips - things of mutual interest in addition to hanging out in a hospitality suite swapping lies (oops ... make that sea stories) which will, of course, continue to be an important part of our getting together.

OFFICIAL TALLY

122 ballots were returned.

The votes for the '05 reunion were:

Las Vegas	27	Norfolk	6
Anywhere	26	Seattle	2
San Diego	21	Denver	2
Branson MO	10	San Francisco	2
New Orleans	7		

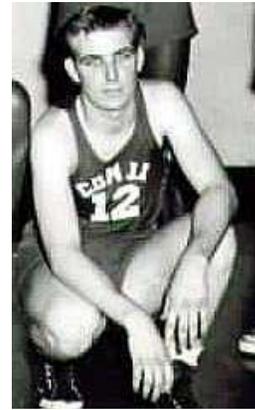
The following got one vote each:

State of Washington; Atlantic City; Rapid City; Orlando; Reno; State of Colorado; Pensacola; New York; Austin; Minnesota; D.C.; Corpus Cristi; Atlanta; State of Virginia; Santa Barbara; Chicago; any midwest site; no west coast location. There was also one vote for a cruise ship - that might be something to consider for the future.

RON KENNEDY

Most of the shipmates that attended Reunion '03 had an opportunity to get a look at the new chairman and a few even got to know him a little bit. Regarding looks, he was once much better looking and a tad thinner. The picture at the end of this column really is our own Ron as he looked when a young athlete playing basketball for the U.S. Navy.

Today, much older and wiser, he is retired from a career in the airline industry and lives in Phoenix, Arizona with his wife Peggy and Gypsy ... a small dog that has complete control and runs a tight ship. When Ron is not manning the ship's office, he can often be found out on the golf course or fishing with his post-Navy buddies. At this time, there is no need to embarrass him by telling of his more interesting extra curricular exploits while serving as PN.



Ron Kennedy, Basketball player



QUIZ

When and where was the above picture taken?

MEMORIAM

One of our shipmates, Kenneth W. Bray, passed away on April 28, 2003. Gloria, his wife of 48 years, said that Kenneth "was proud to be one of our group." Those are kind words indeed by one of our association members.

Smooth sailing Kenneth.



Reunion '03 at the Imperial Palace



Reflections of a Blackshoe

Author unknown

I like the Navy.

I like standing on the bridge wing at sunrise with salt spray in my face and clean ocean winds whipping in from the four quarters of the globe - the ship beneath me feeling like a living thing as her engines drive her through the sea. I like the sounds of the Navy - the piercing trill of the boatswains pipe, the syncopated clangor of the ship's bell on the quarterdeck, the harsh squawk of the 1MC and the strong language and laughter of sailors at work.

I like the vessels of the Navy - nervous darting destroyers, plodding fleet auxiliaries, sleek submarines and steady solid carriers. I like the proud sonorous names of Navy capital ships: Midway, Lexington, Saratoga, Coral Sea - memorials of great battles won. I like the lean angular names of Navy 'tin-cans': Barney, Dahlgren, Mullinix, McCloy - mementos of heroes who went before us. I like the tempo of a Navy band blaring through the topside speakers as we pull away from the oiler after refueling at sea. I like liberty call and the spicy scent of a foreign port. I even like all hands working parties as my ship fills herself with the multitude of supplies both mundane and exotic which she needs to cut her ties to the land and carry out her mission anywhere on the globe where there is water to float her. I like sailors, men from all parts of the land, farms of the Midwest, small towns of New England, from the cities, the mountains and the prairies, from all walks of life. I trust and depend on them as they trust and depend on me - for professional competence, for comradeship, for courage. In a word, they are "shipmates."

I like the surge of adventure in my heart when the word is passed "Now station the special sea and an-

chor detail - all hands to quarters for leaving port", and I like the infectious thrill of sighting home again, with the waving hands of welcome from family and friends waiting pierside. The work is hard and dangerous, the going rough at times, the parting from loved ones painful, but the companionship of robust Navy laughter, the 'all for one and one for all' philosophy of the sea is ever present. I like the serenity of the sea after a day of hard ship's work, as flying fish flit across the wave tops and sunset gives way to night. I like the feel of the Navy in darkness - the masthead lights, the red and green navigation lights and stern light, the pulsating phosphorescence of radar repeaters - they cut through the dusk and join with the mirror of stars overhead. And I like drifting off to sleep lulled by the myriad noises large and small that tell me that my ship is alive and well, and that my shipmates on watch will keep me safe. I like quiet midwatches with the aroma of strong coffee - the lifeblood of the Navy - permeating everywhere. And I like hectic watches when the exacting minuet of haze-gray shapes racing at flank speed keeps all hands on a razor edge of alertness. I like the sudden electricity of "General quarters, general quarters, all hands man your battle stations", followed by the hurried clamor of running feet on ladders and the resounding thump of watertight doors as the ship transforms herself in a few brief seconds from a peaceful workplace to a weapon of war - ready for anything. And I like the sight of space-age equipment manned by youngsters clad in dungarees and sound-powered phones that their grandfathers would still recognize.

I like the traditions of the Navy and the men and women who made them. I like the proud names of Navy heroes: Halsey, Nimitz, Perry, Farragut, John Paul Jones. A sailor can find much in the Navy: comrades-in-arms, pride in self and country, mastery of the seaman's trade. An adolescent can find adulthood. In years to come, when sailors are home from the sea, they will still remember with fondness and respect the ocean in all its moods - the impossible shimmering mirror calm and the storm-tossed green water surging over the bow. And then there will come again a faint whiff of stack gas, a faint echo of engine and rudder orders, a vision of the bright bunting of signal flags snapping at the yardarm, a refrain of hearty laughter in the wardroom and chief's quarters and messdecks. Gone ashore for good they will grow wistful about their Navy days, when the seas belonged to them and a new port of call was ever over the horizon. Remembering this, they will stand taller and say,

"I WAS A SAILOR ONCE. I WAS PART OF THE NAVY & THE NAVY WILL ALWAYS BE PART OF ME."



Gun Action on the 20's



Mine Sweeping in Korea



Liberty Boat, Japan, 1952



Liberty Boat, Japan, 1951



Rough Weather



Loading Weapons in an M-Boat

REMINDER

Just a reminder to all shipmates to send your dues to our treasurer Chod Cremer, P. O. Box 154, Agency, IA. 52530. One year membership is only \$20.00. We appreciate your support