

USS Gunston Hall LSD 5

Newsletter of the USS Gunston Hall Reunion Association

Summer 2006

Hello Shipmates,

Just a little update about our 2007 reunion. We are in contact with several San Diego hotels and hope to have the details completed for our Fall newsletter. I know that one of the big attractions that many of you will be interested in is the USS Midway museum in downtown San Diego. I took the tour last year and it was totally amazing. I spent about four hours aboard the ship. The admission fee is \$15 for the general public and \$10 for seniors; I think most of us will qualify for the reduced rate. For those that have internet access the address for information on the Midway is www.midway.org.



USS Midway at sea

The San Diego area has many attractions for just about everybody. Because this was our home port for so many years I am hoping for a good turnout. I can't think of a better location to have our reunion.

Hello Shipmates (continued)

I would like to thank **Jenny Sevick**, wife of shipmate **Ken Sevick**, for her efforts and time in assisting me with hotel information so that we can get the best deal for our reunion.

Hope to see many of you next year. Just a reminder that in order to attend the reunion all dues must be current at that time. Thanks for your cooperation. - Ron Kennedy



Cabrillo Monument, San Diego, California

Check out the San Diego Virtual Tour at:
[Virtual San Diego](http://VirtualSanDiego.com)

Reunion VIII

Spring 2007 ...

Be There or Regret Having Missed It!

Nostalgia

Submitted by **Ray West**, the last C.O.

When at anchor with your squadron (ours was Comphibron1), the flag ship will run up a hoist flag to "prepare to get underway." Most ships will bring it's anchor to "short stay" or "up and down" to be ready to get underway when the flag ship lowered it's signal flags. Gunston Hall, being the oldest and slowest ship in the squadron, was at a disadvantage. I had to show how hot we were. While the other ships were still at anchor, we were at full speed going to our designated station. How did we do it? Easy. I heaved the anchor in to just below the water line and not at "short stay" as the other ships. Consequently, we were always first on station much to the consternation of the other C.O.'s The Commodore was always on the other C.O.'s for not being able to keep up with the old "Gunny Maru." Gunston Hall sailors walk tall!

Captain West sent along the following poem inspired by the above and written by an unknown bluejacket.

GUNNY MARU

If you are looking for a ship
That really can do,
The gal you want
Is the Gunny Maru;

There are those who are newer
And faster they say,
Still it's the GUNNY MARU
Whose the pride of the bay;

So the Gunny keeps chugging,
And still leads the way;
While the others are anchored
Or still at short stay.

Maru

The word maru (literally meaning "circle") is often attached to Japanese ship names. There are several theories regarding the origin of its use in the Japanese Navy. (1) The ships were thought of as floating castles, and the word referred to the defensive "circles" that protected the castle. (2) The suffix -maru is often applied to words representing something that is beloved, and sailors applied this suffix to their ships. (3) The term maru is used in divination and represents perfection or completeness, or the ship as a small world of its own. (4) There is a legend of Hakudo Maru, a celestial being that came to earth and taught humans how to build ships. It is said that the name maru is attached to a ship to secure celestial protection for it as it travels.

In Memoriam

As we were literally on the way to the printer, word was received that Clyde Poe, EN, 1962-66 had died. Bill Greene has written a tribute that will be in our next newsletter.

My Heart's at Sea

More poetry ... it seems we are all romantics at heart.
This was submitted by **George Long**, EM, '50 - '52

My Heart's at Sea Forever

Long ago I was a Sailor.
I sailed the Ocean blue.
I knew the bars in Singapore...
The coastline of Peru.
I knew well the sting of salt spray,
The taste of Spanish wine,
The beauty of the Orient...
Yes, all these things were mine.

But I wear a different hat now.
No tie and jacket too.
My sailing days were long ago...
with that life I am through.
But somewhere deep inside of me...
The sailor lives there still.
He longs to go to sea again,
But knows he never will.

My love, my life, is here at home,
and I will leave here never.
Though mind and body stay ashore...
My heart's at sea forever



Joe Beauchamp, FM, 44-47 on keyboard ca 1945

The above photo was taken aboard the ship sometime in 1945, during the liberation of the Philippine Islands. Although quite convincing in the picture, Joe does not know how to play! Nor does he recall specifically how the piano was acquired (possibly traded for a bag of long johns) . If you have more info on how and when it was acquired and what eventually happened to it, please share it with us.

Military.com

If you have internet access, this is an excellent site; you really should check it out at military.com They provide an on-line newsletter with interesting stories, pictures, benefit discussions, VA info and a lot more. The following is from a recent e-mail alert they sent to their members.

“The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has recently learned that an employee, a data analyst, took home electronic data from the VA, which he was not authorized to do. This behavior was in violation of VA policies. The employee's home was burglarized and this data was stolen. This data contained identifying information including names, social security numbers, and dates of birth for up to 26.5 million veterans and some spouses, as well as some disability ratings. Authorities believe it is unlikely the perpetrators targeted the items because of any knowledge of the data contents. It is possible that they remain unaware of the information that they possess or of how to make use of it. However, out of an abundance of caution, the VA is taking all possible steps to protect and inform our veterans. At this time, we encourage you to be vigilant and monitor your financial accounts to protect yourself against identity theft. “

Rep. John Salazar (Colo.) has introduced Veterans Identity Protection Act of 2006 (H.R. 5455). This requiring the VA to provide one year of free credit monitoring and a free annual credit report for the next two years to veterans affected by this security breach. The measure also seeks to authorize \$1.25 billion to implement the program for the first year.

Relevant Internet links:

[What happened at VA and how does it affect me?](#)

[How do I know if information on me was stolen?](#)

[Military.com](http://military.com)

GHRA Website

Over the next few months, we will be making a few changes and generally updating our website. We can use some new photo's and memorabilia. Look through the stuff in your attic and garage. You just might find something we can all enjoy like the picture of **Joe Beauchamp** tickling the ivories on the previous page. We also have some new pics from **Ted Reiley** and some that have been recovered from Harris' old files.

We would like to have a page for each division or at least for each group of divisions. So far, only the “O” Division has enough material for a page of it's own..

To make it work, we need YOURS! Send whatever you have ... we will make copies and return all originals.

www.ussgunstonhall.org

Pay Scales

Hey, check this out. Anyone want to re-enlist? Next newsletter we will show you the officer's pay. You won't believe it!

	1955	2005
E-7	\$222.30	\$2,515.80
E-6	\$187.20	\$2,205.90
E-5	\$163.80	\$1,967.70
E-4	\$140.40	\$1,787.10
E-3	\$117.00	\$1,641.00
E-2	\$101.40	\$1,384.50



The *NEW* Navy

U.S.S. Gunston Hall LSD 44

History

Part Two of a series Korean War Campaigns

Source: www.navsourc.org



North Korean Aggression
26 October 1950

Communist China Aggression
November 1950 to 12 January 1951

Inchon Landing
15 to 17 September 1950

UN Summer-Fall Offensive
1 September to 18 October 1951

Second Korean Winter
5 to 6 December 1951
17 to 18 December 1951
22 to 23 January 1952
3 to 4 February 1952
21 March to 1 April 1952
20 to 30 April 1952

Korean Defense Summer-Fall 1952
1 May 1952

Third Korean Winter
26 March to 22 April 1953

Korea, Summer-Fall 1953
8 to 18 May 1953
1 to 11 June 1953
21 to 22 June 1953
20 July 1953
26 July 1953

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Jargon

log, *n.*, (1574) a device used for determining a ship's speed consisting of a block of wood (a log) attached to a line that is tossed overboard; the line is measured over a fixed time interval and the speed is calculated.

log book, *n.*, (1825) a journal used to record the course and speed of a ship.

log, *n.*, (modern) Deck log - the official record of all the ship's activities, maintained and signed by the Officer of the Deck. It is traditional that the first log entry of a new year is made in verse.

Right Arm Rate - Until 1949, deck-sourced petty officers (Boatswain's Mate, Gunner's Mate, Quartermaster, Signalman, Torpedoman, etc.) wore their "crow" on the right sleeve, as opposed to the left sleeve for all other rates.

Parts of this feature are taken from the USS Rankin AKA 103 website. You can get there from the links page on our website. It's worth a visit.

DUES

Remember ... your dues MUST be current for you to attend the reunion and for you to continue receiving this newsletter. Check the expiration date on the mailing label or the e-mail header. Send your 20 bucks for one year to:

Chod Cremer
PO Box 201
Agency IA 52530



L.C. McGuire, SN

Waiting for 'Colors' Westpac, ca 1953

Photo from Ted Reiley