



Summer 2007

## *U.S.S. Gunston Hall LSD 5 Reunion Association*



### *Hello Shipmates*

We recently held our 2007 reunion in San Diego and if you weren't able to attend it you missed out on a good time. This was our eighth reunion; we had 69 shipmates and 65 guests for a total attendance of 134. There were a few cancellations but all in all it was a very successful reunion. Most of the cancellations were due to health issues and hopefully these shipmates will be able to make the 2009 reunion.

### *U.S.S. Midway*

About 85 shipmates and guests took a tour of the U.S.S. Midway CV-41 and a harbor tour which gave us some good views of today's Navy. It was a very interesting tour and well worth the time.

### *2009 Reunion*

At the business meeting three cities were selected for the site of the 2009 reunion. The three cities determined after discussion by the members are [Branson, Mo](#), [Seattle, Wa](#), and [Washington, D.C](#). I think that any of these cities will make a great place to hold our 2009 reunion. Bud Corner lives fairly close to Branson and will help check out the facilities there and Bob Sundquist will help out with the Seattle information. Capt. Ray West has sent me some information about Washington, D.C. for reunions so hopefully we will be able to come up with a great site for 2009! After we have more information, I will send out ballots to all active members of the association so they can vote for the city of their choice. Remember that only shipmates whose dues are current at the time of the vote will be able to participate. I know that everyone will want to be able to vote for their favorite city so please make sure your dues are up to date. If you do not know when your dues expire just give me a call or e-mail me and I will be glad to look it up for you.



Plank Owners, Andy Andrews and Charles Smith

### *U.S.S. Gunston Hall plaque*

Also at the business meeting we decided to have a plaque made that will be forever on display at the Admiral Nimitz Foundation in Fredericksburg, Texas and will honor the ship and all the crews that served aboard her. It will be a 5 X 7 plaque and will take two to three months to make and will be a worthy tribute to our ship and all shipmates who served on the Gunston Hall. Donations were given by several shipmates and their families toward this project. Jerry DeGroot and Perk Perkins each contributed \$100, Jack Harer donated \$82 and Bill and Doris Driscoll donated \$73.40 through Tupperware sales raised at the reunion in conjunction with their daughter. Thanks to all of you. I hope to someday be able to go to Fredericksburg and see the plaque when it is on display.

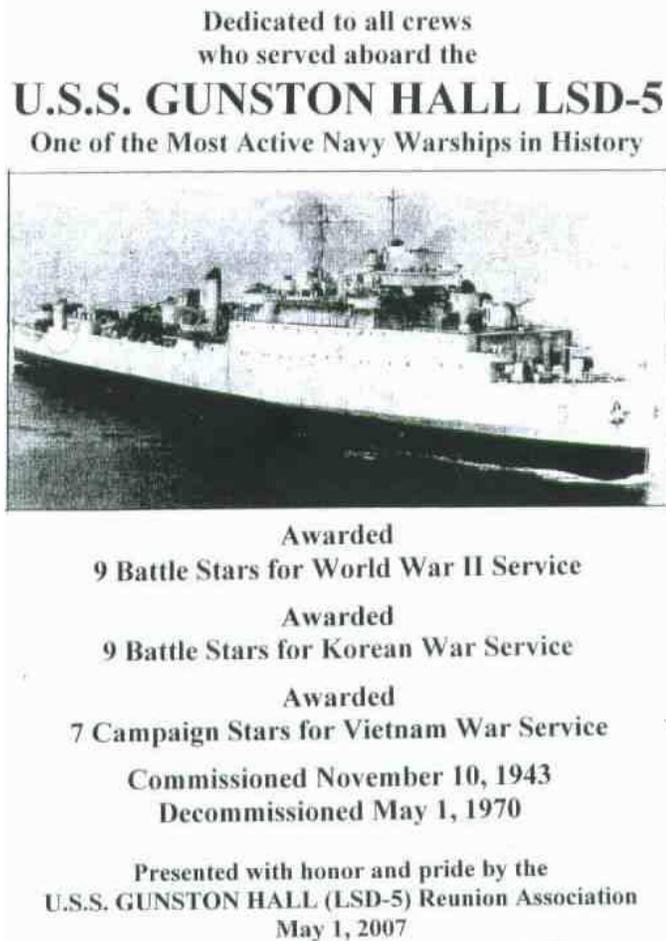
### *Luau*

On our last night at the reunion we had a Royal Hawaiian Luau complete with roasted suckling pig and other delicious foods with the Motu Nehenehe Polynesian dancers providing some great dancing and entertainment. They were a big hit and naturally many old salts had their pictures taken with them! Talk about thorns between the roses! There was also a Hawaiian Guitar band that played some great music.

- Ron Kennedy, Chairman



## The Plaque



*Above is a not-so good, third generation copy of an artist's rendering of the Gunston Hall plaque being prepared for display at the [Admiral Nimitz Foundation](http://www.history.navy.mil/danfs/). When the actual plaque is completed and installed we will get a good quality photo for a future newsletter.*

## Internet Connections

**NavSource Online: Amphibious Photo Archive**  
<http://www.navsource.org/archives/10/12/1205.htm>

**U.S. Naval History**  
<http://www.navsource.org/>

**Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships**  
<http://www.history.navy.mil/danfs/>

**Admiral Nimitz Foundation**  
<http://www.nimitz-museum.org/>

**Service related benefits**  
<http://www.military.com/>

**GHRA Website**  
<http://www.ussgunstonhall.org>

It seems websites generally are always "under construction" and GHRA's is no different. There is always something new to add or something to change or update. Currently we are re-doing some of the pages so they will be less cluttered and there are a few corrections needing to be made.

We also will be adding a new page for the 2007 reunion with some photos that did not get into this newsletter. Toward that end, send us what you have! At times there were more flashes fired than there are at celebrity press conferences. We particularly want photos with people. And, one or two with the presentation of colors. Contribute! Send what you have.

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**USS Gunston Hall LSD 5 Reunion Association**  
**Ron Kennedy (PN, 57-59), Chairman**  
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Avondale AZ 85323  
<http://www.ussgunstonhall.org>  
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623/907-3688

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## Saluting another World War II Pacific Fleet Warship ...

U.S.S. Indianapolis, CA 35, served heroically in major Pacific battles but her major claim to fame was near the end of the war. She left San Francisco and proceeded unescorted at flank speed to Tinian, a Pacific island. Her cargo consisted of elements that were assembled into the atomic bombs that ended the war with Japan.

The trip from San Francisco to Tinian set a speed record for the time ... 5000 miles in 10 days. There was one stop en route at Pearl Harbor.

A few days after making that delivery and only a few weeks before the end of the war, she was attacked by a Japanese submarine that scored two direct torpedo hits. She capsized and sank in 12 minutes. Only 312 men survived out of a crew of 1,200. Due to a series of mishaps and miscommunications, the survivors had been clinging to life vests in the shark-infested waters from 30 July until 2 August. Only 81 of the survivors are alive today.

A permanent exhibit opens at the Indiana War Memorial on July 7.

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## Treasurer's Report

Balance at close of the 2005 reunion	\$3,643.10
Dues & Contributions received	
May, 2005 to April, 2007	\$5,654.00
Interest Earned	21.99
TOTAL	\$9,319.09
TREASURER'S EXPENSES	
Postage	\$136.20
Copies (est.)	45.00
Total Treasurer	\$181.20
*Paid to Hotel (est.)	\$650.00
*Paid to Musicians	500.00
*Paid to Honor Guard	100.00
CHAIRMAN'S EXPENSES	
Postage	\$517.84
Newsletters, Directory, Website	1,699.02
Office Supplies	311.54
Misc Reunion Expenses	340.65
People Search, Vet Friends, etc	236.75
Total Chairman Expenses	\$3,105.80
Paid to Chairman	\$3,100.00
Chairman balance from 2005	175.00
New Chairman Balance	\$169.20
NEW TREASURY BALANCE (est)	\$4,787.89

Respectfully submitted, May 1, 2007

Chod Cremer, GHRA Treasurer

Notes: Expenses marked \* not covered by Registration Fees.  
Transactions after 4/23/07 are not included

## DUES REMINDER

Just a reminder to check your dues expiration date which is the three or four numbers just after your name on the mailing label. The first two numbers are the month and the last two numbers are the year in which your dues expire. Thanks for keeping your dues current and remaining a member of our Association.

*Remember: in order to attend the reunion and participate in GHRA matters your dues must be current*

Send your check for \$20, payable to GHRA to:

**Chod Cremer**  
**PO Box 201**  
**Agency IA 52530**

## Photo Credits

Photographs in this issue were submitted by Bob Beyer, Fred Carrozzo, Bob Mintz and Ron Kennedy.

## Business Meeting

We held our eighth reunion at the Red Lion Hanalai Hotel (the name was changed to the Crowne Plaza while we were there). We had 69 members present (nine had to cancel) and 65 guests for a total of 134 in attendance.

Ron Kennedy asked if anyone present was interested in becoming chairman of the association. There being no volunteers, he was nominated to remain in office. Bill Greene was also nominated for the office. An election was held and Kennedy was re-elected, by a very wide margin, to continue in that position.

Your treasurer was re-elected unopposed.

The membership voted to spend \$350 for a memorial plaque for our ship honoring all who served on her to be placed in the Chester Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas.

Jimmy Wright (RD, 1956-58) made a motion to repeal the "no repeat locations" rule as discussed in 2005. The motion carried.

Following a lengthy discussion, the following cities were selected to be voted on for the 2009 reunion.

Washington D.C.  
Branson, MO  
Seattle, WA

Ballots will be sent to all dues paying members.

The time frame for the reunion will remain mid to late April.

There being no further business demanding our attention the meeting was adjourned, Peace and Harmony prevailing.

Submitted by Chod Cremer, Treasurer  
San Diego, California, April 29/May 2, 2007

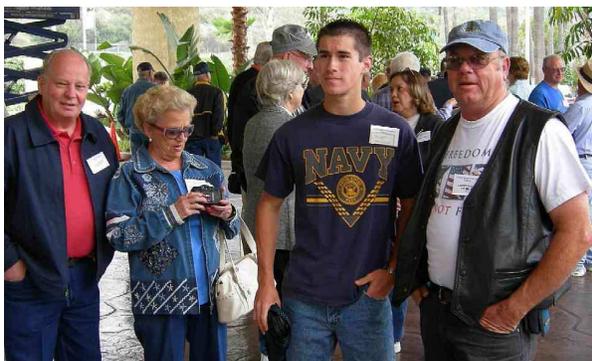
## Editor's Comments ...

For the benefit of our new members, the election for chairman was held in strict conformance to our bylaws as they were originally established. The bylaws are available on the website, [www.ussgunstonhall.org](http://www.ussgunstonhall.org) or by writing and asking for a copy.

The method for selecting a host city was revised at the 2005 business meeting, also in accordance with the original bylaws. The current method is to take suggestions from members attending the meeting and nominating the three most popular, one from each geographic area of the U.S. That is, one each from the west coast, east coast and central states. Ballots are then mailed to all current members to determine which of the three is preferred by a simple majority.

At the meeting, it was thought that we could have e-mail balloting to select the city for the '09 reunion. Upon closer consideration, for many reasons, it does not seem likely at this time. The reference to e-mail balloting has been deleted from the above.

# Reunion 2007 ...

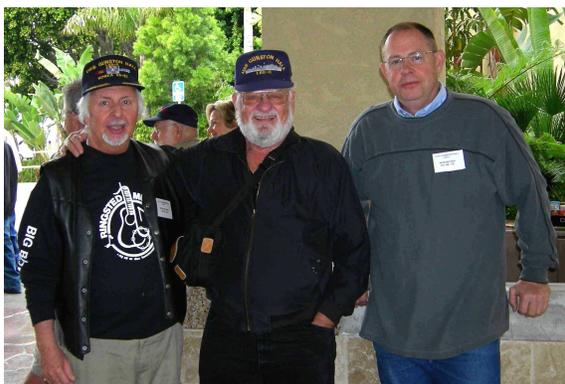


Harvey, EN 61-63 & Sharon Peterson, Javan & Larry Mauck ,EN 61-63

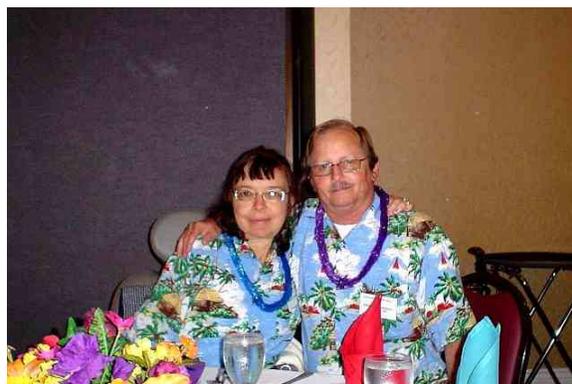
Old Salts,  
Good Friends,  
& a GREAT TIME had by all!



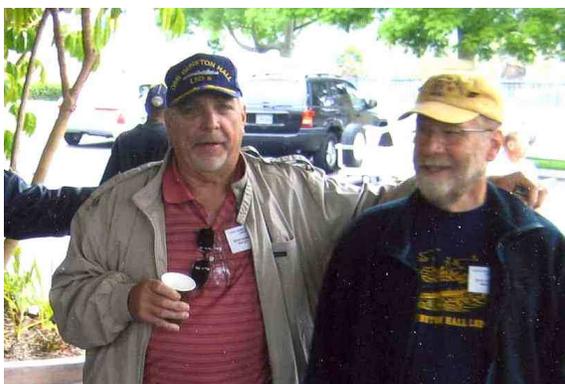
Jack Buick, RD, 56-59 Jimmy Wright, RD, 56-59



Ken Nielsen RD, 53-4, Bob Mintz ET, 52-4, Bob Beyer DC, 69-70



Fred & Dawn Carrozzo, FTG, 68-70



Ron Kennedy, PN, 57-59 , Dick McQuate, RM, 64-66



Al Barros, IC, 53-57 and Victoria



Bernie and Ron Lynch, LTJg, 59-61



Peterson, EN, 61-63; Tank , MM, 63-65; Pfister, MM, 61-64