



# USS Gunston Hall

## LSD 5

Summer 2009 Newsletter of the Gunston Hall Reunion Association

## Branson was *GREAT!*



Plankowners and WWII vets represented by: **Andy Andrews, Joe Beauchamp and Chuck Smith**

### *Hello Shipmates,*

I am happy to report that we held our 9<sup>th</sup> reunion at the end of April in Branson, Mo. and according to most accounts everybody had a good time. I know I certainly did. We had 61 shipmates in attendance along with 52 wives and guests so it was a very good turnout.

Our stay at the Ramada included a great hospitality room where we all gathered much of the time, drank coffee, had a few beers and swapped sea stories and memories of our time aboard the Gunston Hall, from commissioning in World War II to decommissioning in 1970. The old gal had quite a history and provided us with plenty to talk about over the three days.

Our reunion was topped off with a great dinner and Legends in Concert show that included Elvis, Alan Jackson, Rod Stewart, Tina Turner and the Blues Brothers. If you missed the reunion I hope you are able to come to our next one in 2011.

Our 2011 reunion will be held in one of these three cities: Norfolk, Va., San Antonio, TX or Seattle, Wa. In the near future I will be sending ballots to our current members of the association so you can vote for the city of your choice. There will be a deadline for returning the ballots to me and only members whose dues are current at that date will be allowed to vote. So please remember if you want to have a say where our next reunion will be held make sure your dues are current by the deadline on the ballot.

I have been fortunate to have served as chairman of the association for over six years and it's time for some younger shipmates to step up and take over the reins. Several shipmates have volunteered to assist in the running of the association until we can find that person. One shipmate in particular would make a great chairman and he will be retiring within a year and hopefully could take over the duties. I along with Jack Buick, Chod Cremer and others will gladly assist in any way we can to make sure the Gunston Hall association remains alive and well as long as possible. Anybody interested in helping out can contact me by phone or e-mail. Thanks for your cooperation.

# On Board

Branson 2009

Mike Anderson	RM	66-68
Andy Andrews	MM	43-46
Jack Baird	BT	67-70
Joe Beauchamp	FN	44-47
Bob Beyer	DC	69-70
Jack Buick	RD	56-59
Maurice Chase	MM	67-69
Bud Corner	BM	57-60
Chod Cremer	BM	50-53
Joe Dizona	RM	63-66
George Dolzonek	FP	52-56
Bill Driscoll	BM	62-65
Gary Dunkleberger	RM	60-62
Don Dye	MM	67-70
Marvin Fowler	GM	56-59
Frank Frankson	SK	51-54
John Galle	YN	45-46
Lyle Hansen	RM	51-54
Ken Hardy	EM	67-70
Jack Harer	RM	52-55
Gene Hauser	YN	53-54
Lew Hevel	PN	54-55
Val Infante	MM	52-56
Lucas Jojola	BM	65-69
Jerry Josephson	BM	57-60
Bill Karriman	MM	49-52
Dick Keller	DK	52-53
Ron Kennedy	PN	57-59
Joe Kiraly	LtCdr	67-68
Tom Knox	SN	67-67
Tom Kooistra	MM	65-67
Harold Larson	SK	51-54
Ray Leon	MM	49-50
Louis LeValley	SN	51-52
Roger Lothamer	MM	67-68
Roger Merriott	BM	62-64
Paul Minson	MM	69-70
Bill Newton	SN	57-61
Bill Ohman	MM	49-52
Dick Peres	YN	53-54
James Peters	BM	57-59
Harvey Peterson	EN	61-63
Marion Pfister	MM	61-64
John Prizzi	MM	53-56
Larry Rimmer	YN	54-57
Bob Roh	SK	54-56
Bill Shireman	EN	67-68
Chuck Smallwood	EM	52-56
Charles Smith	BM	43-46
Bob Sundquist	HM	51-53
Ed Tank	MM	63-65

# Connections

**Coleman Carl Forbes**, GM3, 7/67-1/68

Email : carlforbes@hughes.net

Served on board from 7-67 to 1-68 as a GM3, my whole time on board in dry docks in Portland Or. MAA during that time.

**Robert Dorn**, GMGSN, 1968-70

Email : bdorn03@sbcglobal.net

**Tom Belcher** Adjutant General Iraq War Veterans

Email :adjutantgeneral@iraqwarveterans.org

It is a pleasure to learn about the men and history before our time. If I can ever help you with a veterans needs or anything let me know I will do my best.

**Clayton Robinson**, Corporal, USMC

Email : clayrayrob@hotmail.com

I spent one day on the ship while in the Corps. The trip was from San Diego to San Clemente Island.

**Verland French**, SN

Email : kyote1998@yahoo.com

Recall working for BM1 Harp, Making 1st landing In Da-Nang and Chu-lai in Mar. or April of '65 Don't recall when I came aboard or left the ship. I am an American Indian. Now retired BMC.

**Richard Peak**, BT, 1961-62

Email: rkpeak@gmail.com

Got on gunny in Hong Kong - Left San Pedro, went to Cuba. Discharged in San Diego Dec 23 1962

**Eric Riecki**, BT3, 68-70

Email : ERiecki@aol.com

Stumbled onto site while looking for PACV's/swift boats. It's good to see still familiar names. 25 of us stayed to train the Argentine crew.

**Tommy Varnell**, SKSN, 58-59

Email : tommy\_varnell@suddenlink.net

Was my first ship.

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## On Board (Cont.)

Wayne Thompson	SK	52-55
E.L. Tolbert	MM	43-46
Fred Tooker	YN	52-55
John Tradup	YN	54-56
Harry Trapp	MR	52-54
Bud Voegelé	SF	54-59
Shelton Weaver	BM	58-62
Jim Weinkauff	EM	57-60
Jimmy Wright	RD	56-58
Joe Zawaly	BT	59-62

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# Treasurer's Report

Chod Cremer, Treasurer, prepared an annual financial report. Following is a synopsis; the complete report was distributed at the reunion.

2007 Balance	\$4,799.25
Dues & Contributions	6,142.32
Interest Earned	19.96
Sales of Items	73.40
Total - April, 2009	\$11,034.93
Expenses	
Postage	822.34
Office Supplies	410.05
Printing	1,391.64
Website	240.00
Flags, Plaques, etc	697.13
Hats	862.50
Misc Chairman	471.50
Deposits Paid	100.00
Nimitz Foundation	350.00
Pre-Reunion Balance	\$5,689.77

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## Meeting Notes

Chod also provided notes of the members' meeting. Following is a brief summary of what was mailed separately.

Our 9th GHRA reunion had 61 shipmates and 52 guests in attendance.

Ron Kennedy agreed to remain as chairman with assistance from **John Prizzi, John Tradup, Bob Beyer, and Bud Corner.**

Chod was unanimously re-elected as treasurer

The next reunion will be in 2011 at one of the following cities: Norfolk, Seattle, San Antonio.

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## Internet Links

### Nimitz Museum

<http://www.nimitz-museum.org/memorial-wall/photos.php?img=USSGunstonHall.jpg>

(You must squeeze it into one line)

### Other Links

American Naval Fighting Ships:

<http://www.hazegray.org>

<http://www.navsource.org>

<http://www.military.com>

### Current military news and events

<http://www.americasupportsyou.mil/americasupportsyou/>

**There is also an entry for the ship in Wikipedia**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS\\_Gunston\\_Hall\\_\(LSD-5\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Gunston_Hall_(LSD-5))



## Reunion Trivia

**Chod Cremer** made some interesting observations about us .

Regionally, 19 of us came from the Western U.S., 35 from Central states and 9 from the East ... what's the problem with you east coast guys?

By tour of duty; 5 members from 1943-47; 22 from 1949-54; 17 from 1955-59; 6 from 1960-65; 13 from 1966-70.

We have gained 13 new members since the 2007 reunion and we had three of the original GHRA Charter members in attendance: **Andy Andrews** 43-46; **Chod Cremer**, 50-53; **Bill Driscoll**, 62-65.

Charter members, **Chod Cremer** and **Bill Driscoll**, have attended all reunions:

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## ussgunstonhall.org

Although still a work in progress, there is a new section on our website devoted to the reunion in Branson. At this time, there are a lot of pictures that we could not squeeze into this newsletter. In time, we hope to expand it with input from YOU. Check it out. <http://www.ussgunstonhall.org>

### USS Gunston Hall LSD 5 Reunion Association

**Ron Kennedy (PN, 57-59), Chairman**  
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Avondale AZ 85323

<http://www.ussgunstonhall.org>

E-mail: [info@ussgunstonhall.org](mailto:info@ussgunstonhall.org)

623/907-3688



## *Reunion 2009 - Branson MO.*



Chod Cremer, BM, 1950-53



Jim Peters, BM, 1957-59



Jerry Josephson, BM, 1957-60

Bill Newton, SN, 1957-61



Mike Anderson, RM, 1966-68

Joe Dizona, RM, 1963-66



John Galle, YN, 1945-46 & Gini



Jimmy Wright, RD, 1956-58

There are more pictures on our website, [ussgunstonhall.org](http://ussgunstonhall.org)

Contributing photographers: **Roger Merriott**, BM, 1962-64; **Jim Peters**, BM, 1957-59; **Ron Kennedy**, PN, 1957-59; **Jack Buick**, RD, 1955-59.