



# *USS Gunston Hall*

*LSD 5*

Fall 2009 Newsletter of the Gunston Hall Reunion Association

SEATTLE



2011

# Connections

## **John Lenker**

My father served on this ship during the Vietnam era'  
I believe it was 1963 to 1965

## **James Thomas Craft, 1945-1946**

Email : tcraft3@sc.rr.com

I would like to know if my Father James Thomas Craft was on the USS Gunston Hall LSD 5. I found his little black book after his death in 2004. It had dates of WWII from 1945-1946, The ship that was mentioned in the notes was the USS Gunston Hall. Can you help me? He was from Virginia.

## **Art Anglade, EM, 69-70**

Email : anglade@sbcglobal.net

On board in Subic Bay during last West Pac tour. Attended decommissioning ceremonies and transferred to LST 1186. Alive and well and living in Northern California.

## **Mike Michelsen, SF, 1946**

Email: Mikendi4msn.com

Great vessel to be aboard and a great crew.

## **Jim Craycraft, EM, 66-70**

Email : jim.craycraft@gmail.com

I am interested in hearing from people who served during the time that I did.

## **Roger Lothamer, MM, 67-68**

Rate : MM3

## **Harry D Trapp, MR/LCDR, 52-54**

Email: hdtrapp@juno.com

Thanks for the Newsletter. Always look forward to it.

## **Cory Reilly, SFP, 68-70**

Email : cory.reilly@deca.mil

comments : I was on the last cruise. Retired in 1991. I have many good Memories of the Gunny Sack, and a lot of good friends also. Please email me

## **Frank Adams, DC, 66-70**

Email: keeperfrank@aol.com

## **James A. "Lucky" Risner, MM, 41-47**

Email : jack.risner@gmail.com

My father was on the Gunston Hall. He was known as Art or Lucky to his friends. If anyone remembers him or has photos from that era please contact me. He passed in 1990

## **Russell Skidmore, CS, 1962**

Email : ra.skids6928@hotmail.com

comments : I was aboard when we went to Cuba in Nov 1962

# In Memoriam

**Thomas H. Daniels, BM, 64-66**  
has passed away from cancer. Daniels went into the reserves after his active duty on the Gunston Hall and progressed through the ranks and retired as a Captain. He was also chiefly responsible for our 1999 reunion in Corpus Christi, TX.

**George Leytem, MM 51-55**

# Membership

We have many members whose dues have expired in recent months. I'm sure that most want to remain members of our association. I will be sending out a dues reminder soon. Please check the date behind your name ... that is the date your dues expire. If your date doesn't show up give me a call or e-mail me. Let's all get together and keep our association alive and well for as long as possible. Send your check for \$20 for a full years dues made out to GHRA to our treasurer We can't do it without your support. Thanks much.

**Chod Cremer, Treasurer**

**P. O. Box 201,  
Agency, IA 52530.**

---

## Connections, cont.

## **Harold W Rhodes, YN, 44-45**

Email : heymargaret1234@aol.com

## **Clifford Boxer Jr., EM, 67-70**

Email : clifford.e.boxer@verizon.net

I just added a USS Gunston Hall LSD-5 page to my Facebook profile.

## **Larry D. Countryman, SN, 1958**

Email : ldcountry@centurytel.net

After Operation Hardtack in 1958, our unit, 7.3 Decontamination Unit, ... transferred to Gunston Hall for transient to San Diego Amphibious Base. Wondering if anybody recalls this trip.

## **Robert VanDusen, BM, 69-71**

Email : dusie454@verizon.net

I was Captains gig coxwain. And I was glad to be aboard.

## **Don Giebels, RM, 56-59**

Don checked in on classmates.com

## History Column

In an earlier issue, we listed a series of events in which the ship was involved during the Korean War. Cdr. Ray West, the last skipper of the U.S.S. Gunston Hall sent the following additional detail. Each of these activities earned a Battle Star.

- 18 Jan 50 – 26 Oct 50  
North Korean Aggression
- 15 Sep 50 – 17 Sep 50  
Inchon Landing
- 04 Nov 50 – 12 Jan 51  
Communist China Aggression
- 15 Sep 51 – 18 Oct 51  
U.N. Summer-Fall Offensive
- 05 Dec 51 – 30 Apr 52  
Second Korean Winter
- 01 May 52  
Korean Defense, Summer-Fall '52
- 26 Mar 53 – 22 Apr 53  
3rd Korean Winter
- 08 May – 26 Jul  
Summer-Fall 1953

The website has several pages of information regarding the ship's activities during World War II. All of the information regarding WW2 was obtained from logs and journals kept by the shipmates that were there and were experiencing it all first hand. Our archive has very little information about Korea and none at all from the Viet Nam era. In order that we share and present as much information as possible it is important that we get more first hand stories, anecdotes, diaries and the like. The only source for that info is YOU! Send us what you have, tell us what you know. We will immortalize you in future newsletters and on the website.

### USS Gunston Hall LSD 5 Reunion Association

Ron Kennedy (PN, 57-59), Chairman  
11832 W. Virginia Avenue  
Avondale AZ 85323  
<http://www.ussgunstonhall.org>  
E-mail: [info@ussgunstonhall.org](mailto:info@ussgunstonhall.org)  
623/907-3688

# EQ

## Internet Links

### Seattle

For the Official Seattle site:  
<http://www.seattle.gov/html/>

For a list of attractions:  
<http://www.helloseattle.com/Attractions.cfm>  
or  
<http://www.seattle.gov/html/visitor/points.htm>

### 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))

## 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.  
<http://www.ussgunstonhall.org>

## E-mail

If your e-mail address has changed please let me know. I have sent out many messages that come back undeliverable so please send me your new address. And, make a note to update GHRA whenever you change your e-mail in the future. It's easier, faster and much cheaper through e-mail than through U.S. mail. Thanks for your help on this.

- Ron

## *Puget Sound Navy Museum*



Puget Sound Navy Museum, Bremerton WA

The Puget Sound Navy Museum is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and interpreting the naval heritage of the Pacific Northwest for the benefit of the U.S. Navy and general public. Explore the naval history of the region through exhibits about the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, USS John C. Stennis, and much more. The museum offers a gift shop, research library, and children's area.

The museum is in Bremerton. It is about a one hour drive from Seattle or a short ferry ride. More information is forthcoming!

## *Puget Sound Shipyard*



An Ammo ship being built , Puget Sound, 12/16/1919



## *Sick Bay*

**Harold "Andy" Andrews** MM 43-46 underwent quadruple bypass surgery earlier this month and is now recovering at home. He is still weak but is recuperating nicely. He said to thank all the members for their prayers. Get well Andy!

## *Hello Shipmates,*

Well the ballots are in and tabulated for our 2011 reunion. The big winner is Seattle, WA!

The final results are as follows:

Seattle	40
San Antonio	36
Norfolk	35

As you can see it was a very close race. I sent out 160 ballots and 111 were returned so 49 ballots were not sent back. I am disappointed that more ballots weren't returned. That's less than 70% voting for our 2011 reunion site. I appreciate all of you that sent in your ballots. As you well know all you had to do was select the city of your choice, put your name on it and mail it in. It was already postmarked so you didn't even have to put a stamp on it. Yet 49 ballots were wasted in my opinion.

Hopefully we can get some reasonable hotel rates for Seattle and have another great reunion as we did in San Diego and Branson.

Thank's again for all your cooperation and let's get ready for **SEATTLE 2011!**

- Ron



Pike & Pike, Seattle WA