



USS Gunston Hall

LSD 5

Fall/Winter 2011 Newsletter of the Gunston Hall Reunion Association

Hello Shipmates,

I hope that everybody had a Happy Thanksgiving with their families and friends and I'm sure you are now getting ready for the busy Christmas season that is upon us. As we celebrate the holidays with our families let us not forget some of our shipmates and others less fortunate who might not be having a Merry Christmas.

At our reunion last May in Seattle we selected three cities as the location for our 2013 reunion. The cities are Norfolk, VA., Pensacola, FL., and San Antonio, TX. The reunion dates will be April 28-30, 2013. Unlike in the past I will not be sending out postcards for ballots. It is expensive and frankly a lot of work so I will be asking all of you to notify me either by e-mail, regular mail or give me a call and let me know which city you prefer. A majority of our members have internet service and can easily send me an e-mail with their choice. All others can call me or send their choice to me by regular mail. The deadline for voting will be **February 29, 2012** and only members whose dues are current will be eligible to vote. Remember, if you want to have a say on where we go in 2013 please make sure your dues are current and notify me of your selection. If anybody is not sure when their dues expire feel free to contact me anytime. For anybody without computers I will try to contact you before the deadline if I have not heard from you by that date. Also **some of you have changed e-mail addresses and have not notified me** as I have had several e-mails bounce back for a variety of reasons. So **make sure I have your current e-mail address** on record so we can stay in contact.

Chod Cremer, our treasurer, has stated that he will be retiring after our next reunion and I have decided to join him. I was going to retire after our reunion in May but several of the guys wanted me to stay on and I agreed to do that. I have been doing this job a lot longer than I ever anticipated and I'm finding out I'm getting a little too old for it. So if our reunion association is going to stay alive and well somebody is going to have to do a little soul searching, step up and take over. Our members have been very supportive of Chod, Jack Buick and myself over the years but it is now time for somebody a little younger to take over the reins. Whoever assumes the job can still count on help from us to make our association the best it can be. From the time Bill Greene, Bill Driscoll and many other shipmates started our association years ago we have managed to keep it going with some great reunions and keeping our shipmates in touch with each other. That's the way it should be and hopefully that will continue.

On behalf of Chod, Jack and myself we want to wish all of our shipmates and their families a very **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year** in 2012.

Thanks for your support, Ron

Dues Expired?

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

The following are excerpted from the Visitors' Log on our website. In a few cases, the entry has been edited and revised due to space limitations.

Chuck Surratt, MM, 50-54

Email : chucksurratt@hotmail.com

Sorry I missed the reunion in Seattle. Enjoyed the pictures, really wanted to say "hi" to my friend and ship mate Harry Trapp

Jim Weinkauf (Wink), EM, 57-60\

jandjtea@svtv.com

comments : New e-mail address. Missed 2011 reunion, hope to make the next one. Great job guys.

Dennis Bacon, MS, 65-67

dennisbacon@comcast.net

Why is there no information about the 2001 Reunion ? I was just looking at a photo of that reunion. Also how about a list of the commanding officers who served on board? (Editor's note: There is nothing because we have nothing. Why don't you send us the referenced photo for a starter?)

Bruce Littman, QM, 1945

Rate : QM3rdClass

Email : balittman@gmail.com

Bill Driscoll, BM, 62-65

Email : eagle_357@verizon.net

I thought real hard about taking over from Ron. I worked with Bill Greene for many years to try to find as many guys we could.

Ronald E Williams, BT, 55-59

Email : mercedes19086@zoomtown.com

Good work on this site

Don Dye, MM, 67-70

Email: 2ds87forever@speednet.com

Haven't been on this site for a while and wanted to see if anything new has been added.

Would like to here from old shipmates.

Robert C. Wood

Email : retiredwoodhouse@mail.com

My father served on board 1946-47 - was in nuclear testing at bikini atoll - **Warren G .Wood (Woody)**

William R Rucker, OS, 65-66

Email : b_rucker3333@sbcglobal.net

Love that ship

Richard Morgan, PN, 58-62

Email: morganscouts@AOL.com

LSD-5 Paint duty (water line & anchor shaft). Chipped paint in the well deck with at least another 100 sailors on the cruise.

Aloha!

Viet Nam Veterans

NOW HEAR THIS

Mike Anderson, RM, 66-68, has done the research and has sent this to be shared. *If you served on the USS Gunston Hall LSD-5 during the Vietnam era, you need to pay particular attention to this important information.*

Under the law, veterans who served in Vietnam between 1962 and 1975 (including those who visited Vietnam even briefly), and who have a disease that VA recognizes as being associated with Agent Orange, are presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange.

The VA has released a list of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships associated with military service in Vietnam and possible exposure to Agent Orange based on military records. The USS Gunston Hall is now on this list. I encourage all former shipmates to apply for this benefit if you have any of those diseases.

Please see the following link for more information on how to apply.

<http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits/herbicide/aono3.htm>

Here is the link to the VA list of ships that were exposed to Agent Orange. Select the Alphabetized Ships List.

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/index.asp#find>

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))

Connections (cont)

Joshua Carter Email : j17carter@yahoo.com

My father was **Ronald Lee Carter (SN, 1965-66)** He is on your memorial list. I recently got into researching about his time in the military. If anybody has any memories of him I sure would like to hear them! Thanks

2011

ussgunstonhall.org

As we approach the end of the year, we remember those that have passed on ahead of us during these twelve months:

Al Barros, IC, 53-57
George Boutsis, MM, 49-52
Jim Doyle, YN, 56-57
Donald Harrington, QM, 53-56
Darrell Harris, SK, 52-56
Ted Holmes, MM, 53-55
John King, GM, 43-45
Wallace LaCoste, MM, 43-44
Larry McNabb, EM, 50-54
Anthony Petrella, SF, 45-46
Al Stover, BM, 49-53
Frank Susnik, MM, 43-45

And welcome those that have connected with us throughout the year:

John Anspach, FP, 57-59
Greg De Los Santos, YN, 68-69
Mel Harris, MM, 48-51
Jesse Juarez, SM, 64-67
George Komis, SN, 62-65
Floyd McMillin, SN, 60-62
James Sigafoos, LTjg, 68-70
Van Silkett, MM, 59-63
Bob Togstad, SN, 59-63

If you haven't been to the website recently it has a new section with photographs and Reunion 2011 trivia. It is a work in progress as is the rest of the site and there is a lot of room for more pictures, comments, whatever you might have to offer.

A frequent complaint is that there is often not enough content. In another part of this newsletter a shipmate asks why there is nothing on an earlier reunion. The only reason is that we don't have anything. We do not create the stuff and are 100% dependent on you to help us out.

It would be great to have a few pictures from every reunion. An earlier thought was to have a section for each of the ship's divisions but so far we only have 'O' Division.

Help us out. Send us whatever you have that might be appropriate. We will handle it with care, copy it and return it to you in the same condition it is received.

USS Gunston Hall LSD 5 Reunion Association

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A few shipmates in Okinawa about 1945.

Gallery



E.L. Tolbert, MM, 43-46 and Ed Tank, MM, 63-65 at the 2011 Reunion in Seattle



Bill Newton, SN, 1957-61 and Sue at the 2011 Reunion

Merry Christmas



Happy New Year



USS GUNSTON HALL'S bell hangs on Japanese Torii.

Gunston Hall Hangs Bell On Japanese Torii

USS Gunston Hall has adapted a rather unique method of displaying her ship's bell. The bell is supported by a Japanese Torii, an ancient oriental symbol that wards off evil spirits.

The Torii was constructed by damage controlman first class J. H. Garrett and shipfitter first class B. P. Rosen-

berg under the supervision of senior chief damage controlman W. S. Moore.

Gunston Hall, commanded by Cdr. Wilbur A. Sundt, has visited Japan during each of her western Pacific deployment. Among cities visited was Yokohama, San Diego's sister city.

Newspaper clipping presumably from a San Diego newspaper of the time (about 1969).



Don Dye, MM, 67-70; Gene Wetter, MM, 67-69; and Clyde Walton, MM, 68-69

