

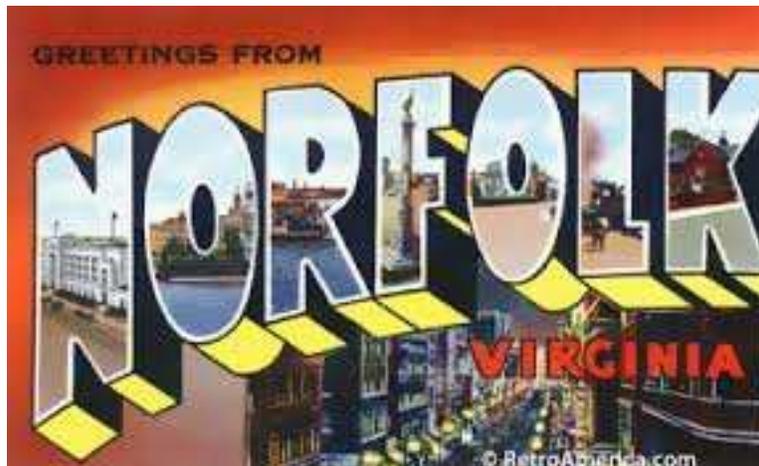
USS Gunston Hall LSD-5

1943 - 1970



Winter 2014 Newsletter of the Gunston Hall Reunion Association

And the winner is...



Hello Shipmates,

I have completed negotiations with the hotels for our reunion and have contracted with the Holiday Inn Norfolk Airport. The reunion dates are April 26-28, 2015 in Norfolk, Va. The room rate will be \$103.46 per night and includes all taxes and charges. Total charges for all three days will be \$310.38. For anybody wanting to stay longer the rates are good for three days before and three days after our reunion dates. The address of the hotel is 1570 N. Military Hwy, Norfolk, Va. 23502. You can make your reservations now by calling 1-877-834-3613 or the hotel directly at 757-213-2231. In order to get our special rate you must let them know that you are with the USS Gunston Hall reunion. There is a direct link to the hotel on our website. You will need a credit card to make your reservation but will not be charged anything until you check in.

The hotel offers a complimentary shuttle from the Norfolk airport to the hotel 24 hours a day and will also take you to shopping, restaurants and more within a 5 mile radius of the hotel. Our rate also includes a complimentary breakfast buffet each morning for up to two guests per room. Complimentary self parking is also included. Check in 4PM and checkout 12:00 PM.

The restaurant offers a 10% discount for all reunion attendees and is open for breakfast and dinner. We will

also have our own hospitality room and will be able to bring in our own snacks and beverages. No alcohol allowed out of the hospitality room. I only blocked 30 rooms so please make your reservations as soon as possible so if we exceed that amount I can block more rooms.

The sooner the better on making your reservations. I need a better idea on how many people to expect so I can make preparations with the hotel for a smooth operation. Reservations received after 3/26/15 will be accepted on a space available basis. This hotel handles many military reunions and is very caring for veterans. I was just there in September to check everything out and they had a destroyer reunion and they went all out to make them welcome. The hotel manager Allison comes from a Navy family so she goes all out to take care of our veterans.

We will also have a drawing for a free room for some lucky shipmate. To be eligible, you must make your hotel reservations before February 1, 2015

We will have only one dinner this reunion and it will be on Tuesday night. I definitely need to know how many of you will be attending including guests. The cost will be \$45 per person for dinner and refreshments in the hospitality room. Send your check to Bob Beyer not later than February 1, 2015.

Continued on page 3

Connections

Jim Craycraft, EM, 66-70

Email : jim.craycraft@gmail.com

Oliver Humphrey, MM3, 3/66-2/70

Email : ziggie2000us@yahoo.com

Just wanted to say hello. Also if any of you are on Face Book could you add me as a friend. Would like to hear from you.

Cliff Boxer Jr, EM3, 67-70

Email : cliffordboxer1902@comcast.net

I am watching a CD of home movies from Gunston Hall's last trip to Viet Nam 69-70. Takes me back. Thanks to Ken Hardy who made the CD/movies.

Bob Grimes, IC3, 68 - 72

Email : grimesrd11@yahoo.com

Jim Weinkauf - Wink, EM-2, 5-57 to 7-60

Email : jandjtea@svtv.com

New email address. I will try to make the 2015 reunion where ever it is. Thanks for this site.

Donald J. Wagner, USN (Ret.), SM, 56-59

Reported aboard as undesignated SA assigned to 2nd Div. on wing walls.

Don Leggett, BT, 1963

Email : db11942@yahoo.com

Served aboard the ship for seven months

Mike Donner, Sgt USMC

Email : hottubsrus50@yahoo.com

Thought I'd let you no my dad **Oran Donner**, SN, 51-54 shown on page 4 in the photo section passed away Wed May 21st 2014. He loved the Navy and his time at Sea. He fought hard but we lost him.

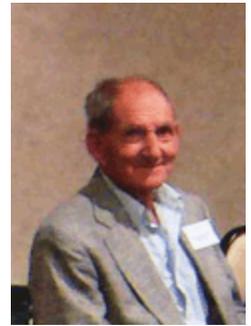
Dave Smith, 1Lt Army 1966

Email : rdstex@gmail.com

Sep66 Operation Duke my unit (A Co 19th Cbt Engr BN) along with other units loaded on the Gunston Hall at Qui Nhon VN & steamed north to Tam Quan. I was on one of the first LC ..

In Memoriam

Ed Crawford, EN
1949-52



Oran Donner, SH 51-54
Oran is standing and wearing a light shirt.

I. Sam Lazarov
LT 53-54



Ed Olsen, CS, 43-46



Ralph A. Smith
SM 49-52

E. L. Tolbert,
MM 43-46
Plankowner



Hello Shipmates *Continued from page 1*

I am also trying to arrange a tour of the Little Creek Amphibious Base where all the LSD's are home ported. It will be a tour of the amphib base and after that a two hour harbor tour which takes you all the way to the carriers, guided missile destroyers, subs and a whole lot more. I took it and it's well worth the trip. The cost will be \$73 per person (including lunch) for the entire tour. Bus picks us up at the hotel and drops us back after the tour is completed. .

Most importantly I need to know how many of you are planning on going to the reunion and also how many are interested in taking the tour. Include wives, guests in your party, etc. so I can get a total number to plan with. I need to know if you plan to do the tour as there is a 35 person minimum. And I need to know for sure how many rooms to block.

I know some of you have previously notified me that you will be going to the reunion. Please let me know again ASAP as I think I have lost some of your e mails. Appreciate it.

This could well be our last reunion so let's get together again and have a great time. Any questions just e mail me or call. Contact info below.

- Ron



Well Deck operations—1940s

Origin of the name...

Gunston Hall

The inspiration for our own Gunston Hall (the Virginia Estate) is located in Codsall, Staffordshire, England. As you can see from the picture, our Gunston Hall (Estate) hardly resembles the original. That building dates back to the 15th century and the smaller portion of the house, shown here, is what survives. It is presently a livery.

The original Gunston Hall (Estate) was initially owned by the Fowke family, cousins of the Masons. Gerard Fowke, brother of the owner, and George Mason I came to Virginia following the defeat of Charles II in the Battle of Worcester in 1651. Many of Charles allies, including the Fowkes and Masons, sought refuge in the New World. Subsequently, three Gunston Halls were built, one in Maryland and two in Virginia.



This brief history and the photo were lifted (with permission, of course) From the Blog of rhe Gunston Hall Estate. The author is Jackie LaRaia, a guide at the estate. The entire article (and a lot more) can be found at the estate's website: <http://www.gunstonhall.org>,

USS Gunston Hall LSD 5 Reunion Association

Ron Kennedy (PN, 57-59), Chairman
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Avondale AZ 85323
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Bob Beyer, DC, 69-70, Treasurer
3911 Lower Saxtown Rd.
Waterloo, IL 62298-4611

<http://www.ussgunstonhall.org>
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Harbor Cruise



If there is enough interest, we will have a tour of the Little Creek Amphibious Base followed by a two hour harbor tour. The cost will be \$73 per person. Which includes lunch at the CPO mess.

There is a minimum of 35 persons required to do it making it important that you contact Ron with your intentions immediately. **YOU MUST RESPOND BY February 1, 2015**

More information is available at the cruise operator's websites:

<http://www.navalbasecruises.com/>

<http://www.navalbasecruises.com/photos/?album=4>

Nauticus Museum and the USS Wisconsin



The Nauticus museum is a great place to tour while we are in Norfolk. The museum contains many interesting exhibits and also includes the USS Wisconsin BB-64. You can tour the museum and the Wisconsin for \$14.95 for seniors. Just be prepared for a long day of exercise if you do either of these. I did and when I got through I was one tired old guy. But I got to see a lot of the Wisconsin and it was very interesting. The Nauticus is located on Waterside Dr. on the waterfront and is closed on Monday during our reunion dates so Tuesday will be the day to go. Nauticus is also where the Victory Rover departs from. The Victory Rover is the two hour boat tour that takes you all over the harbor and to the Norfolk Navy base where the ships of the Atlantic fleet are based. We hope to have a group together for this tour (see "Harbor Cruise" just above in this column) but if we don't book the minimum this is a great tour and can be booked individually. Price is \$22 for adults.

