



USS Gunston Hall LSD 5

*Newsletter of the Gunston Hall Reunion Association
Fall, 2004*

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Reunion '05

Just a few words to remind everybody to start making arrangements and reserve your hotel rooms early for our reunion in Las Vegas May 1 – 3, 2005. Remember to send your registration fee of \$78 for a single or \$156 if you are bringing a guest to our treasurer Chod Cremer. Make sure your check is made out to GHRA Reunion 2005 and send it to Chod Cremer, P. O. Box 154, Agency, IA 52530. All registration fees received by Chod by December 15, 2004 will be eligible for the drawing of a free room for the three days of the reunion so be sure and **get the registration fee to Chod by December 15th and have a chance at winning a free room.** A free room will make you an instant winner in Las Vegas! **You must make your room reservations directly with the Imperial Palace at 1-800-800-2981;** be sure to tell them you are with the USS Gunston Hall LSD5 reunion in order to get the special group rate of \$69.00 + tax, single or double occupancy. The cut off date for the special group rate is April 1, 2005 and rooms and rates after that date will be strictly on a space available basis. You will be billed for one nights room and tax on your

credit card at the time you make your reservations. However if you have to cancel, that charge will be refunded as long as you cancel at least 48 hours before arrival time. We hope that as many shipmates attend the reunion as possible so that we can have a great reunion. As a group, we are aging; so far this year five shipmates have passed away and a few others are no longer able to make the trip due to medical problems. Who knows how many reunions any of us have left. Hope to see all of you in Las Vegas! Thanks for your cooperation.

Ron Kennedy

Got E-Mail?

A growing number of shipmates are getting connected to the Internet. If you have Internet access and we do not have your e-mail address, please send it to us. This newsletter is currently sent electronically to more than half the membership and it is posted on our website. The big advantage is the reduced cost. There are no printing costs and no postage costs. It also saves considerable time and effort on the part of our all volunteer staff!

There are other benefits as well. The e-version of the newsletter has hotlinks, more color pages and future editions will have extra pages with links to other sites of interest.

The relative ease and speed also make it possible to send out periodic announcements that would likely not otherwise happen.

So, if we do not have it or if it has changed from what we do have, e-mail your e-mail address to us at the address above or give Ron a call.

And, we are still looking for a few good men to help out!



From the Editors ...

This is our fifth newsletter in this format. Feedback from many members has been quite favorable which is gratifying for us to hear. Everyone likes a pat on the back.

The four previous letters have been highly successful ONLY because there have been major contributions from our shipmates. The photo's, stories, reminiscences, etc. have all come from you guys. Without the contributions, there can be no newsletter.

This issue was easy to put together without a lot of input as we have information to present regarding the reunion in 2005. But, the well has run dry. To keep it going, we must have some material with which to work. Send whatever you have ... photo's, stories, lies, memories. Don't worry about the condition of the photo's or the correctness of the grammar or anything else for that matter ... we will make it work.

Special Request ...

A shipmate has asked for a picture of the ship's bell. There is nothing like that in our archive. If any of you have one, please send it on. If need be, we will have it reproduced and return the original to you.

CONNECTIONS

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MEMBERSHIP DUES

For those shipmates that receive this newsletter via the Internet, please note that your dues due date is a part of your e-mail header. The 3 or 4 digit number after your name in the "To" section of your e-mail header is the month and year your dues expire. If you receive this via US Mail, your due date is the 3 or 4 digit number after your name on the mailing label. Your check or money order for \$20 must be payable to "GHRA" and sent to our treasurer, Chod Cremer, P.O. Box 154, Agency IA 52530. Do NOT make the check payable to Chod; that just complicates banking it.

Your dues must be current to continue receiving the newsletter and if you plan to attend the reunion.

In

Memoriam

We have received word of the deaths of these shipmates:

Scott Burns, CAPT., 58-59

Joe L. Miner, ME, 50 – 54

Daniel E. Nead, MM, 43-45

Vic Silverman, MM, 61-63

Archie Stegeman, RD, 50-54

Jarrell Vollmer, BM 49-53

"Life's journey is not to arrive at the grave safely in a well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, totally worn out, shouting "WOW! ...what a ride!" ... *Unknown*

Pinochle anyone?

Double deck pinochle was a favorite past time of many aboard the ship. It has been suggested that we have a tournament at the reunion. If you are interested, be sure to sign up upon arrival (even better, let us know before arrival so that we can start to get it organized). If you don't have a partner, one will be randomly assigned. Of course, there will be a suitable prize for the winning team.

If there are any other suggestions, send Ron a note or e-mail right away ... it will be May '05 before we know what hit us.

The Kitchen Table Gang

Joe Kiraly, LCDR, 67-68 writes to tell us of this organization. In their own words, "The Kitchen Table Gang is a 'rag tag' bunch of military types trying to make life a little more pleasant for hospitalized veterans and our troops overseas."

Anyone interested in getting more information and possibly helping out can reach them at:

<http://www.kitchentablegang.org>

That website also provides links to other sites with useful information such as obtaining copies of personnel records, etc.

Reminiscence from an old seadog ...

Sometimes I look at all the crap stacked in my garage, close my eyes and smile, remembering a time when everything I owned could be crammed into a canvas seabag.

What is there to do in Las Vegas?

Some of us old-timers remember when there was nothing to do except gamble. No more ... this new Las Vegas has something of interest for almost everyone. The sampling below has some of the attractions that are within walking distance of our hotel or are at or near stops on the new monorail line. Maps with details are available.

Adventuredome Indoor Theme Park (Circus Circus Hotel America's largest with 21 rides and attractions.

Bellagio Conservatory & Botanical Gardens (Bellagio) A 13,573 square foot, indoor, glass-domed garden. Exotic plants and flowers highlight every season.

Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art (Bellagio) Home to touring exhibitions of fine art from around the world.

Casino Legends Hall of Fame (Tropicana) The largest collection of Nevada casino and entertainment memorabilia.

Cinema Ride (Forum Shops at Caesars, Caesars Palace) 3-D Motion Simulator Adventures

Circus Acts (Circus Circus Hotel) World-renowned live circus acts free daily.

Eiffel Tower replica (Paris Las Vegas) The top of the Eiffel Tower replica soars 50 stories into the sky offering a spectacular view of the valley.

Fashion Show Mall 200 stores including: Nordstrom's, Bloomingdale's Home, Neiman Marcus, Macy's, Robinsons-May, Saks Fifth Avenue and Dillard's.

Festival Fountain Show (Forum Shops at Caesars Palace) A free animatronics show.

Flamingo Wildlife Habitat (Flamingo Las Vegas) The Flamingo Wildlife Habitat features Chilean flamingos, African penguins, ducks, swans, pheasants and more

Fountains of Bellagio (Bellagio) More than a thousand fountains dance in front of the hotel.

Gameworks Las Vegas Entertainment inspired by Dream Works. Interactive video games & the world's largest indoor rock climbing structure.

Guinness World Records Museum The wacky, weird and wonderful museum brings the Guinness Book of Records to life.

High Roller Coaster and Big Shot (Stratosphere Tower Hotel & Casino) The highest coaster in the world, wraps itself around the crown of the Stratosphere. The Big Shot takes off at the base of the Stratosphere needle and shoots 160 feet in the air and freefalls back down.

IMAX Theatre (Luxor Hotel and Casino) Watch movies shown on a 68 foot tall screen

Imperial Palace Auto Collection (Imperial Palace) Home of the world-famous Imperial Palace Auto Collection of antique, classic and special-interest automobiles.

In Search of the Obelisk (Luxor Hotel and Casino) A motion simulator ride through an ancient, newly discovered pyramid.

Las Vegas Cyber Speedway (Sahara Hotel and Casino) Command race cars 7/8 the size of actual stock cars.

Lion Habitat (MGM Grand Hotel and Casino) This unique lion habitat is home to African lions and cubs.

Manhattan Express (New York-New York Hotel) A Coney Island-style roller coaster

Shark Reef (Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino) Visit 2,000 dangerous and unusual animals representing 100 different species from the world's most tropical waters.

Siegfried & Roy Secret Garden & Dolphin Habitat The Secret Garden is home to six rare animal breeds including the royal white tigers, white lions and a four-ton elephant. The Dolphin Habitat adjacent to the garden offers an educational tour of Atlantic bottle-nosed dolphins. Siegfried & Roy's rare and exotic white tigers can be viewed free of charge. (Mirage)

Speed-The Ride (Sahara Hotel and Casino) A roller coaster that begins inside the NASCAR Café and propels passengers along the Las Vegas Strip.

Star Trek: The Experience (Las Vegas Hilton) Interact with live actors on U.S.S. Enterprise re-creation, battling aliens in space in a motion simulator.

The Tomb and Museum of King Tut (Luxor Hotel) View an exact replication of the tomb of Egypt's most famous king.

The Wynn Collection of Fine Art The private art collection of Steve and Elaine Wynn. The Wynn Collection consists of 19th and 20th century European and American masterpieces.

Flyaway Indoor Skydiving Experience body flight in an indoor wind tunnel.

Remember to vote ... November 2, 2004

Gunston Hall Delivers 'Goodwill' to Hong Kong

The dock landing ship Gunston Hall departed Hong Kong recently, confident that she had brightened the lives of a portion of the city's citizens and added another notch to the U.S. People-to-People program.

Upon her arrival in Hong Kong, The Gunston Hall unloaded more than 8 tons of hand-clasp material. In addition, she gave 105,000 gallons of fresh water to the city during her visit. Further extending the hand of good will, the Gunston Hall hosted a ship's tour and party for 98 English-speaking Chinese orphans, ages 6 through 11, from the St. Peter In Chains School. The children were met upon arrival at the ship by several crewmen who guided small groups through the ship. After the tour, the children were treated to ice cream and cake on the Gunston Hall's mess decks.

In recognition of her kindness toward the orphans, Gunston Hall's CO, Cmdr, E. L. Ball, received a letter from Chaplain Hirst of Hong Kong. The letter expressed his "... sincere gratitude for your kindness in giving such a wonderful party to the refugee children on your ship. They all enjoyed it very much. Please convey my most grateful thanks to the officers and men of your ship for the generous hospitality shown to the children."

The above is an article that originally appeared in 'The Amphibian' on October 26, 1963. It was submitted by Robert Henderson, RD, 63-64.



Remember ...

Return to Standard Time on Halloween, October 31.

Spring ahead
FALL BACK

Arizonans may not understand and should ignore this public service message.



USS Gunston Hall, LSD 5, heading to sea

You could own ...

... the above picture! It is a beautifully framed color photo transferred to canvas. There are two available and only at the reunion! Details will be available in the hospitality suite.

You could have owned the GUNSTON HALL ...



50 ft Willard Marine Utility Boat. Fiberglass construction. L: 50 ft; H: 12 ft; Beam: 14 ft. Weight: 24,000 pounds including crew and fuel. 146 person capacity.

Charles found this on an internet auction site. The high bid at the time was \$35.00.

Statement of Mission ...

The Gunston Hall Reunion Association exists solely to find and re-unite officers and crew that served on the USS Gunston Hall, LSD 5, at any time during her years of service and to hold periodic reunions for the benefit of its members. GHRA does not hold any political views and makes no endorsements or judgments of any political party or ideology.