



USS Gunston Hall LSD 5

Newsletter of the Gunston Hall Reunion Association
Spring 2005

Reunion '05

Hello Shipmates,

I would just like to say a few words and make sure that everybody is aware of all the details regarding the reunion as this will be the final newsletter you will receive before the reunion takes place.

Our reunion is scheduled for May 1 – 3, 2005 at the Imperial Palace Hotel in Las Vegas, NV. The cut off date for reserving your room is April 1, 2005 by 5:00 PM. All rooms remaining unassigned after this date will be automatically released by the hotel for general sale so please make sure that you don't get shut out and you make your reservations before April 1, 2005. Also when you make your reservations with the hotel **be sure to tell them that you are with the USS Gunston Hall LSD 5 reunion.** The phone number for making your reservations is 1-800-800-2981.

Also **don't forget to send in your registration fees which take care of the dinners, hospitality room and other various charges during the reunion.** Please send your check made out to GHRA Reunion 2005 to our treasurer Chod Cremer, P. O. Box 154, Agency, IA 52530. The fees are \$78 for a single or \$156 if you are bringing a guest.

We will have a dinner Sunday evening May 1st and also a dinner on Tuesday evening May 3rd, our last night of the reunion. A hospitality room will be available to us for all three days. On Monday May 2nd we will have our business meeting.

Everybody will have plenty of free time to check out Las Vegas and to drop in to the hospitality room to renew old acquaintances with your shipmates.

I hope that many of you will attend so that we can have a great reunion. Our next one won't be until 2007 and who knows how many of us will be able to attend two years from now. I am looking forward to seeing all of you in Las Vegas! Let's have a great reunion!

-Ron Kennedy

ROOM RESERVATIONS

**IMPERIAL PALACE HOTEL & CASINO
3535 LAS VEGAS BLVD. SOUTH
LAS VEGAS, NV 89109
RESERVATIONS: 1-800-800-2981**



Memories from 1945

U. S. S. GUNSTON HALL

24 July 1945

To: ALL HANDS.

1. During our stay in the states, you will given as much leave as I am permitted to give. I regret that I can't say that will be thirty days leave plus travel time. It will probably be not less than fifteen days, total, and not more than twenty days, total.

2. You are returning to the states with a great deal to be proud of. You have served through many difficult campaigns in one of the Navy's most useful ships, and wherever service men may gather you need yield to none of them concerning the importance of the service you have rendered.

3. Keep out of trouble. We've been away so long that we've almost forgotten how civilians behave and how they expect us to conduct ourselves. Wear your uniform properly and proudly. Allow plenty of time to get back from your leave so your shipmates will have a break. Conditions of travel are said to be very bad. I hope we can get through the next six weeks without a single mast case. I don't have time to hold mast, and I don't enjoy holding mast and I don't want to tie up any of my men on brig sentry watches. If you will cooperate with me there will be no mast cases.

4. To those of you who will not be with us when we leave, the rest of us give thanks for the help you have given us. We wish you new assignments which you will like, but we don't believe any assignments you get will use you more effectively against the Japs than this ship can use you.

5. I hope you will find your families well, happy, and unworried; that the girls will be friendly and good liquor plentiful. On top of those good wishes, I wish for you anything else necessary to make your leave a grand success.

/s/ M. A. POWELL, Commanding Officer

Las Vegas Attractions

The 'new' Vegas has a lot more to offer than gambling and booze. In the previous issues, we listed many attractions and also some organizations that can help plan your visit to Las Vegas. If you missed that or just forgot, check out the last two newsletters. For those with Internet access, the best link we have found so far is

www.vegas.com

The site lists all of the attractions and most of the shows that are current or scheduled. It also provides information on tours, golfing, night clubs, restaurants, what have you. There is a calendar of events. It is possible to make reservations and buy tickets for many events at the site.

There are more ... others we have checked are:

vegastours.com
lasvegasadvisor.com

Vegas Car Rentals

We have negotiated a special rate for car rentals in Las Vegas with US Rent A Car.

Compact	\$16.00/day	\$107.00 /week
Mid Size	\$19.00/day	\$109.00 /week
Full Size	\$24.00/day	\$122.00 /week
SUV	\$49.00/day	\$195.00/week
Convertible	\$42.00/day	\$220.00 /week
Mini Van	\$39.00/day	\$205.00 /week

The rates do not include taxes or fees, but all vehicles have unlimited mileage. To make a reservation, call the reservation line at 1-800-777-9377 or email:

racmarketing@lvcm.com

Be certain to ask for the "Gunston Hall" rate.

Vehicles can be picked up upon arrival at the airport, or there is a complimentary shuttle service from the hotel to the rental office.

From the last issue ...

The Real McCoys was a favorite bar in San Diego.

GUNNY'S GRAND DAY

by **Ken Nielsen** RD 53-54

I dug deep in my treasure chest of cherished memories and recalled a gem. I would like to make clear at the start even though I have a role in the event it is the Gunston Hall this story is about. On with the tale!

I can't recall precisely where or for that matter precisely when, however I'm pretty sure it was somewhere in Korea during the closing months of the conflict. I can recall it was a bright sunny day and a light breeze blowing. We were tied up port side facing a river. It was mid-day or thereabouts and I was busy with this and that, but I can't remember what this was or that was. However whatever I was doing was interrupted by the ship's loudspeaker blaring out "Now hear this, Nielsen RD seaman report to the wheel house with your trumpet on the double." I used to practice a lot so the first thing that came to mind was I was in for a chewing out for disturbing the peace or at the very worst tell me to deep six it. Well lucky for me that wasn't the case. When I reached the wheel house, trumpet in hand, I was greeted by Capt. Lindsay. After the proper military amenities, the captain directed me to go out portside and look at the river astern of the ship. And what a sight my eyes did behold, the invincible man o war the USS New Jersey in all her glory. The stars and stripes rippling proudly in the light breeze, her spotless brass work catching the sunlight, her 16" guns making her appear foreboding and magnificent at the same time, ship's company at attention starboard side, dress whites. A sight I will never forget.

Captain Lindsay said, "you are to play attention to colors on my word." Well I don't mind admitting now that I had a bad case of knee shaking. Of course I had heard the attention to colors many times but never had played it before. Thank goodness it went well enough. After that the New Jersey signaled thanking us with a well done. I am proud that in a small way I was instrumental (no pun intended) in helping making Gunny's grand day (one of so many).

Reunion Business

The GHRA by-laws define the Executive Committee as having only two members. Specifically, the Chairman and the Treasurer, both of whom are elected by the members and apparently are intended to retain those positions forever.

At the Business Meeting, I would like to have the members consider changes to those by-laws that would expand the Executive Committee to include a vice Chairman. Any changes to the by-laws and appointments to the committee will require the consent and approval of the membership. Only members with currently paid dues will have a voice in these matters.

Most likely, I will step down after the '07 reunion. Having a broader Executive Committee in place will assure the continuity of our organization.

Ron Kennedy

More on that *NOT SO GRAND DAY ...*

John Bakker, QM, 51-55 furnished these additional details about the LCVF going under (see the original story in the last newsletter).

The Gunston Hall was undergoing invasion operations off Oceanside when this incident took place. Gunston Hall was assigned control boat on this operation and at this particular time a coxswain from an APA was driving the boat. Nobody knows why the Gunston Hall's coxswain wasn't at his usual assignment. Apparently the APA coxswain wasn't familiar with the way the Gunston Hall coxswain drove the boat and when they put it in the water the ship was still moving about 2 or 3 knots and the boat was still hooked up. The coxswain didn't get the VP up to speed right away as was customary and it resulted in the VP being pulled under. **Bakker** and two other shipmates were thrown into the water which resulted in them being taken to the hospital for check up and treatment.

Captain Musgrave and a few good men with a war prize.



Any of you remember when and where this photo was taken? How did the guys acquire the Korean flag?

CONNECTIONS

John Rogers 53-54 A Div., rpndy44lcy40@aol.com
Paul Maples SM 63-65, paulmaples@sbcglobal.net

Big Band at Reunion '05

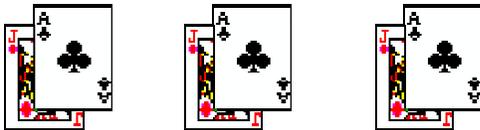
Well, OK ... Big Band music!

SWING TIME

We have contracted with a musical group known as the Carl Grove duo for our upcoming reunion. Saxophonist Carl Grove and keyboardist Peter Urquidi have over fifty years of musical experience and play mostly music from the 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's.

Carl played with the Gene Krupa and Woody Herman bands and Peter performed for many years at the Top of the Mint as well as many other gigs. They have a repertoire of swing, big band, Dixieland, jazz, Latin, cha cha, rumba, tango, bossa nova, waltzes, dinner music, dance music and more. Grove claims that no one has ever stumped them on a request and have more than a thousand songs in their play list. They don't play rock and roll, rap or reggae. On occasion they will play some show tunes and some songs from the 80's and 90's if the music fits their style, even adapting country and western music.

The duo can play music in any tempo or style. So close your eyes and listen to that sound and imagine you are hearing Benny Goodman, Jimmy Dorsey or Harry James. Bring your dancing shoes. The music swings



Reunion '05 Schedule

Our tentative schedule for the reunion:

Sunday beginning at noon: Registration in Hospitality Room.
Sunday evening approx. 6:30 PM: Dinner in Banquet Hall.
Monday: Business meeting: Time & place to be announced.
Tuesday evening approx. 6:30 PM: Dinner in Banquet Hall.

There will be more specifics in your registration package.

If you have or know of any business to bring before the members, please let us know asap so that it can be included in the business meeting agenda.



<http://www.ussgunstonhall.org>
Email: info@ussgunstonhall.org
623/907-3688

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Remember, if your dues are not current, you are not able to attend the reunion or vote on GHRA matters.

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.

Errata

In the Winter issue, the last line of Jim Culp's story went AWOL in the printed version of the newsletter. As most have deduced, the missing line was the single word, "liberty."

USS Gunston Hall LSD 5 Reunion Association
Ron Kennedy (PN, 57-59), Chairman
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