



# USS Gunston Hall LSD 5

Newsletter of the USS Gunston Hall Reunion Association

Winter, 2005 – 06

*Seasons greetings* to all of my Gunston Hall shipmates. I hope that each and every one of you and your families are having a wonderful holiday season this year. This is a time for families to get together to celebrate Christmas with loved ones and enjoy the holidays. And, a special time to remember those shipmates that are no longer with us. Let us not forget to keep them in our memory during this wonderful time of year.

*Here's wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.*

If any shipmate has a new e-mail address that we do not have, please send it to us so we can stay in contact easier and also cut down on expenses. Also I need to stress again that we need input from the membership regarding stories, pictures or any- thing else that we can use for future newsletters. I know that some of you have pictures, articles, etc. stored away that would prove interesting to other members so dig it out and send it to us. Thank you for your help. - Ron Kennedy

# Merry Christmas



Skyline, Norfolk



MacArthur Memorial, Norfolk

## Milestones

Our shipmate Gene Covey, BM, 49-52 suddenly and unexpectedly passed away on Dec. 17, 2005. Gene was a very loyal member and had attended five reunions starting in 1995. Our condolences and sympathies go out to his family.

## Reunion '07

We are rapidly approaching our eighth biennial reunion and it is time that we decided on the location in order that we get the ball rolling. In Las Vegas last year, we decided to limit the choices to three possible sites: Norfolk, San Diego and New Orleans. Although we will keep New Orleans on the ballot, you are strongly encouraged to vote for one of the others. At this time, few New Orleans hotels are making any commitments; only one has made an offer and that is estimated to be \$200 per day for the hotel only (and no guarantee that it will happen).

There is a quick review of the offerings from San Diego and Norfolk on page 2. Check them out. If you received this newsletter in the US Mail, your ballot was in the envelope. If you are an E recipient, your ballot is in the mail. **Ballots must be completed and returned not later than January 20, 2006. Late ballots will not be counted.** Ballots for any city other than those nominated will not be counted.

### Remember ...

**If your dues are not current when your ballot is returned, your vote will not count!**



San Diego skyline



Balboa Park, San Diego

# Norfolk? or San Diego?

## Norfolk ...

If the reunion was to be held in 2006, several hotels are offering us rooms at \$80 to \$109 per day, single or double occupancy. The reunion fee would be about \$85 per person to cover buffet dinners, hospitality suite refreshments, etc.

### *Norfolk Highlights*

Armed Forces Memorial  
USS Wisconsin (Tours available)  
Chrysler Art Museum  
Civil War Trails  
Hampton Roads Naval Museum  
MacArthur Memorial  
U.S. Naval Station (Tours available)  
Botanical Gardens

## San Diego ...

A bit more expensive than Vegas or Norfolk, several hotels have sent proposals with room rates ranging from \$90 to \$125 per night, single or double occupancy. The reunion registration fee would be about the same as for Norfolk.

### *San Diego Highlights*

Gambling Casinos  
Golf  
Sea World  
San Diego Zoo  
USS Midway (Tours available)  
Wine Tours  
Beaches  
Old Town  
U.S. Naval Station (Tours available)

## For more info ...

There is a lot of information available on the internet. Two very good sites are:

<http://www.norfolkcvb.com> for Norfolk

And

<http://www.sandiego.org> for San Diego.

A Google search for either city returns thousands of sites.

## *And remember ...*

All prices are estimates based upon current rates. There may be increases before we have a firm agreement.

## Reminiscence

Old sailors sit and chew the fat about things that used to be, of the things they've seen, the places they've been when they ventured out to sea.

They remember friends from long ago, the times they had back then; the money they spent, the beer they drank in their days as sailing men. Their lives are lived in days gone by, with thoughts that forever last of bell bottom blues, winged white hats and good times in the past. They recall long nights with a moon so bright far out on a lonely sea, the thoughts they had as youthful lads when their lives were wild and free.

They knew so well how their hearts would swell when Old Glory fluttered proud and free, the underway pennant such a beautiful sight as they plowed through an angry sea.

They talk of the chow ol' cookie would make and the shrill of the bosun's pipe, how salt spray would fall like sparks from hell when a storm struck in the night. They remember old shipmates already gone who forever hold a spot in their heart, when sailors were bold and friendships would hold until death ripped them apart.

Their sailing days are gone away; never again will they cross the bow. They have no regrets, they know they are blessed for honoring a sacred vow.

Their numbers grow less with each passing day as the final muster begins. There is nothing to lose, all have paid their dues and they'll sail with shipmates again.

I've heard them say before getting underway that there is still some sailing to do. They will say with a grin that their ship has come in and the Lord is commanding the crew.

Submitted by Bob Roh, SK, 1954-56

## DUES

*Remember ... your dues MUST be current for your vote to count and for you to continue receiving this newsletter. Check the expiration date on the mailing label or the e-mail header. Send your 20 bucks for one year to:*

*Chod Cremer  
PO Box 201  
Agency IA 52530*

**USS Gunston Hall LSD 5 Reunion Association  
Ron Kennedy (PN, 57-59), Chairman  
11832 W. Virginia Avenue  
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# USS GUNSTON HALL LSD 5

FLEET POST OFFICE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Sunrise 0616

Sunset 1824

THE PLAN OF THE DAY FOR FRIDAY 26 MARCH 65

## UNIFORM OF THE DAY

### TOPSIDE WATCHES & DETAILS -WORKING

Officers and CPOs Tropical wash Khaki long Tropical wash Khaki long  
Enlisted Clean dungarees w/white hats Dungarees w/blue caps Shirts Optional

### DAYS ROUTINE (-7G ZONE TIME)

- 0000 – Carry out AT SEA WORKING ROUTINE WITH EMBARKED PERSONNEL as set forth in LSD5 Organization and Regulation Manual except modified as follows: General Mess Meal hours are in accordance with LSD5 Notice 4651 of 10 Feb 65.
- 0600 – Reveille  
Set Special Sea and Anchor Details (To be announced)
- 0616 – SUNRISE: Light ship. The smoking lamp is lighted in all authorized spaces. The smoking lamp is out aft of frame 50 and in the well. Do not throw lighted cigarettes over the side at any location.
- 0745 – Muster on Stations.
- 0800 – Turn to. Follow JUNGLE DRUM III BACKLOADING SCHEDULE if necessary. Commence field day.
- 1000 – Health and Sanitary inspection.
- 1030 – Muster Mess Cooks in Port Mess Deck for Sanitary Inspection by Medical.
- 1125 – Knock off ships work.
- 1200 - Open Post Office for stamp sales until 1230
- 1245 – Turn to. Continue field day.
- 1545 – Knock off ships work.  
Underway when announced.
- 1730 – Movie call.
- 1930 – Movie call.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

All venereal diseases are prevalent in the Bangkok area and the V.D. rate runs extremely high. The establishments immediately outside the port gate have been known as a place where venereal diseases may be contacted very easily. The names of these places are as follows: Mosquito Bar, The O. K. Club, and the Venus Room. The canal (klong) system makes mosquito control difficult but incidence of malaria within Bangkok is practically non-existent. Inoculations required for U. S. Military personnel are: typhoid, para-typhoid, cholera, typhus, and small pox. Diptheria inoculation is desirable. Usual precautions should be taken against dysentery.

JUNGLE DRUM III will be completed with our backloading Friday and it is intended that the squadron will get underway late in the afternoon for Bangkok for a pleasant 4-5 days R & R. The operation was acknowledged by both U. S. and Thai Commanders as a success, but a complete success will only be possible with an unmarked liberty record also.

If higher authority and local restrictions permit, I intend to commence liberty at 0900 or 0930 for two sections each day, with all those on tours going at whatever time is required. There is much to see and do in Bangkok and I'm sure we will all have a fine time. You have all turned to smartening up the ship and carrying out our job during the operation. I feel it only right to inform you that I personally intend to see as many of the sights as possible, which means anyone who feels the need to over indulge or become a nuisance in any way that causes him to be written up or lose his liberty card will have to wait on board to see me about it after we get underway from Bangkok. Remember the days are long, the sun is hot and the beer is strong.

# Rogues Gallery — As We Were



Ted Reiley at retirement, 1980



Frank Holloway, 1951



Joe Pierce, PNCM, 1975



Bill Driscoll, BM, 1962-65



**Happy New Year**