

USS Gunston Hall LSD-5

1943 - 1970



Spring 2015 Newsletter of the Gunston Hall Reunion Association

We have a new chairman!

At the reunion in Norfolk, Ron Kennedy, the second chairman of the Gunston Hall Reunion Association, retired his position after having served honorably for six terrific reunions. Although now officially discharged, Ron will be around and likely will attend many more reunions where he can relax and enjoy the festivities. (Editor's Note: I thought he looked pretty relaxed in Norfolk ... especially after the first 6 or so beers).

Louis Walters, CS, on board the Gunnysack in the late 60s as CS2, has volunteered to take on the responsibilities. Several members have offered to assist with the duties and Louis has recruited a committee to help run the organization.

From our chairman emeritus

Hello Shipmates,

First of all I want to thank all of you who attended our April reunion in Norfolk, Virginia. We had thirty shipmates in attendance and about 70 people in all so we had a good turnout. I think everybody agreed that we had a great reunion. Many said they thought it was the best ever. We've had some good reunions in past years and I think this one ranked right up there with the best also. We had some great entertainment during our dinner banquet and we enjoyed a few drinks in our hospitality room. Non alcoholic of course! It seemed the hospitality room was a great gathering place for everybody. Lots of laughs with many great people. And Shelton Weaver played and sang too. Also we had a fantastic tour of the Little Creek amphibious base and of the Norfolk harbor as well. We packed in a lot of fun and activity in a short three days. Thanks to all of you who made it possible.

I am now officially retired as chairman of our reunion association. However Louis Walters stepped up and volunteered to take over as chairman so we can keep the association alive and well. I'm sure that Louis will do a great job and keep us together as long as possible. I would like to thank all of you for your assistance during my twelve years as your chairman. It has been an honor to have served as your chairman. We couldn't ask for a better bunch of shipmates and we have had some great reunions over the years.

In closing I want to express a great deal of thanks to Jack Buick, RD, 56-59 who has done a terrific job over the last twelve years. He is the main reason for our excellent newsletters and for the top notch database that he put together.

From our new chairman

Greetings Crew, Family Members & Friends,

It looks like I bite off a big one after 1 reunion. After the fantastic reunion that Ron Kennedy put together it will be hard to clone his efforts. But, I'm up for the challenge to chair the 2017 reunion. I didn't want the group to disband, We have a great committee that will serve the crew well.

I came on-board the Gunny Sack in Sept/Oct 65 as a SA. A few months later, CSCM May needed a cook. I always enjoyed being out at sea with one exception, daily duty in the bake shop. In Jan 69 with orders in hand I departed as a CS2.

After 5 years 10 months of active duty I received an early discharge. Six months later I joined the USNR. My last 17 years was with the "CAN Do" Navy Seabees. In Jan 1992 I retired as a Chief Petty Officer.

My wife and I live in Upper Michigan, Kingsford/Iron Mountain area, If you love the outdoors and snow, this is a great place to live. Heaven on earth on the lakes, snowmobile trails and campgrounds,

Take care!
Louie

Chairman emeritus, continued

Once again many thanks to all of you great shipmates who have supported me and helped out over the years. Bill Driscoll, Mike Anderson, Joe Dizona to name just a few. Too many others to mention but you know who you are. Thanks again. Let's stay in touch and look forward to seeing all of you in 2017!

Connections

Due to space limitations, some entries have been edited. The complete, original entry remains on the website Visitor's Log

Hightower, S.C., MM2, 08/56 to 05/60

Email : jodog59@hotmail.com

Duty station port engine room. Bilge rat to top watch on the knee action turbines. Transferred over to tin cans total sea time 16 years.

Robert Hunnicutt

Email : frither@yahoo.com

Son of **James W. Hunnicutt** (1943-1946). Visiting for photographs for James' great grandson (2nd grade) doing a school project on his great grandfather's wartime service for Veteran's Day.

Jim Fowler, BT, 1950/53

Email : jfowler62@cfl.rr.com

Wondering how many guys are left from this era?

Jimmy C. Wright, RD2, 4/56-9/58

Email : jc_wright@outlook.com

I was looking through the log and saw a few old friends, Jack, Ron, Bill, Donald, Eustace I hope to see you all in Norfolk. Thanks Ron and Jack for hunting me up and getting me on board with the reunions.

Martin O'Grady, PN3, 1956-1962

Email : martin.ograde@verizon.net

I was on the LSD 5 1957-1959

Al Salois, E-3, 63-67

Email : asalois711@gmail.com

New e-mail address. .Anybody got photos from this time frame? Terry Troglin, Jesse Juarez, Carl Wayne Birks, Bob Chamberlin, Gary Basore contact at above

A.E. Frazar, BM3, 1963-1966

Email : hlf542001@yahoo.com

Good friend Billie D. Bartosh QM 3 also from Texas. passed away.31 Dec. 2011 from Cancer.

Bob Grimes, IC3, 1968 TO1970

Email : grimesrd11@yahoo.com

Richard Dantes, SN, 1966

Email : r.dantes46@gmail.com

Served on the GH in the deck division for approx 6 mo ... given orders to Vietnam, ended up in the brown water navy. Met a lot of great guys on GH.

Gerald Dowling, S/Sgt, 1952

Email : gtdliesel1@aol.com

Boarded ship off E.Coast of Korea in spring of 1952 when 1st Marine Div moved to W.Coast trying to find out actual dates on board ship. We were treated like Kings thanks to the crew. Any info appreciated

In Memoriam

Billy D. Bartosh
QM3 62-65



George M. May, GM
Plankowner, 43-45



Cal Rohner, MM2
Plankowner 43-45

Connections (Continued)

Emile Messana, BM3, 67-69

Email : emessana@ccw-plus.com

So many memories. Lots of unanswered questions. I was Captains GIG Coxswain, LCVP and Motor Whale Boat Coxswain and more.

Robert Van Dusen, BM 3, 69 to 70

Email : dusie_454@yahoo.com

I was the captains gig coxswain for commander West on the final trip..I have the crew book of the whole deployment and it is in new condition

Cliff Boxer Jr, EM3, 1967-1970

Email : cliffordboxer1902@comcast.net

George Madison May, 91, went to be with our Lord and Savior on 4/20/15. One of the original crew.

Jim Fowler, BT, 50-54

Email : jfowler62@cfl.rr.com

Trying to locate Gerald Strubble was aboard same as myself, also Ralph Quiglet from Torrance Calif..

Paul T. Kijewski, SN, 1969

Email : Paultkijewski@yahoo.com

I was in 1st Division working for BM1 Broderick. The old Gunny Sack was a good ship!

2015 Reunion Shipmates on board...

Michael Anderson, RM, 66-68
Joe Beauchamp, FN, 44-47
Bob Beyer, DC, 69-70
Jack Buick, RD, 56-59
Chod Cremer, BM, 50-53
Joe Dizona, RM, 63-66
Bill Driscoll, BM, 62-65
Gary Dunkleberger, RM, 60-62
Edward D Flook, ET, 59-60
Val Infante, MM, 52-56
Lucas Jojola, BM, 65-69
Ron Kennedy, PN, 57-59
George A, Komis, SN, 62-65
Harold Larson, SK, 51-54
Ray Leon, MM, 49-50
Roger Lothamer, MM, 67-69
Floyd McMillin, SN, 60-62
Richard McQuate, RM, 64-66
Bill Newton, SN, 57-61
Marion Pfister, MM, 61-64
John A Prizzi, MM, 53-56
Bob Roh, SK, 54-56
Bob Sundquist, HM, 51-53
Ed Tank, MM, 63-65
Harry Trapp, MR, 52-54
Louis Walters, CS, 65-69
Eugene S Wetter, MM, 67-69
Joe Whitehill, ET, 56-59
Jimmy C, Wright, RD, 56-58

USS Gunston Hall LSD 5 Reunion Association

Louis Walters (CS, 65-69), Chairman
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Waterloo, IL 62298-4611

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Business at the reunion...

After Louis accepted the challenge of chairmanship, several members volunteered to help with the transition and future activities. A committee was formed with members: Bob Beyer, Wendy Flook (daughter of Ed Flook), Mike Anderson, Joe Dizona, Louie Walters, Jack Buick & with Ron Kennedy as an advisor.

Reunion 2017

As in the past, three cities were nominated for the 2017 reunion. They are: St.Louis, New Orleans/Lake Charles and Las Vegas.

Members in good standing (I.E., members whose dues are paid and current) are able to vote their choice. Wendy Flook will be sending ballots and tallying the results.

If your dues are not paid, please send Bob Beyer a check for \$20 payable to GHRA.

Plankowner

We were fortunate to have Joe Beauchamp, FN, 44-47, one of our World War II veterans attend the reunion. Our other WWII veteran Andy Andrews was planning on going but had some health issues at the last minute preventing him from attending. Get well Andy!

Joe was recently interviewed over Memorial Day by a Tampa TV station. The link is here so take a look. Joe did a great job and makes us all proud that he served on the Gunston Hall during her fine service in World War II. We can all feel proud of our service on the ship over the years. She had some great sailors serve on her.

The link to the interview:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yh7x09plKv4&feature=player_detailpage

-Ron Kennedy

Reunion 2015



Pictures on this page were sent by Esma (Joe Beauchamp guest) and Joe Dizona.

We need more pictures for the website and future newsletters.

Send digital files to: webmaster@ussgunstonhall.org

Send hard copies to:

Jack Buick
8927 Ellis Ave
Los Angeles CA 90034

