

USS Gunston Hall LSD-5

1943 - 1970



Winter 2015 Newsletter of the Gunston Hall Reunion Association

Las Vegas '17



Season's Greetings To the Crew, Families & Friends of the Gunston Hall

I would like to wish all of you the very best holiday season, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. May 2016 be a prosperous year for you all.

2017 and Beyond...

The polls are closed and the votes have been counted. Las Vegas won with 47 votes. New Orleans had 30 votes and St. Louis 19. Thank you Wendy Flook for the outstanding job updating the long list of crew members and tracking the votes.

So that means we could have 50 plus crew members at the Las Vegas reunion. The dates are Sunday, April 23 through Wednesday April 26, 2017. I will try to get the same rates if you want to come before the 23rd or stay after the 26th.

I have been in contact with your committee looking for a hotel and had a lead on a hotel off the strip that looked promising. After reviewing the package they sent, there were major problems that make it unsuitable for us.

Continued in the next column

The search continues with help from the Las Vegas Convention and Visitor's Authority

A challenge is to increase the number of paid up members and the attendance at the reunion. If you know a person who is "iffy" about attending, tell/remind him about the good times we have had at previous reunions.. If you are planning to attend, please give me a "head's up" as we will need to know the number of rooms to block off. The contact information is on page 2.

For future consideration, it has been brought up a couple of times to have a joint reunion with LSD-44. In October I received a call from Louis Skip Sander who was an ENS/LTJG on the USS Rankin and now head of that ship's association. He has been putting together a list of old 'gator ships for a possible reunion. After all, we are one Navy!

Farewell 'til summer. Best wishes and good health to all the Gunnysack family
-Chairman Louie



The Color Guard at our 2005 Las Vegas reunion

Connections

The following are recent entries to the Log on our website

Cliff Boxer Jr, EM, 1967-70

Email : cliffordboxer1902@comcast.net

George Madison May, 91, went to be with our Lord and Savior on April 20, 2015. One of THE ORIGINAL CREW on USS Gunston Hall

Jim Fowler, BT, 1950-54

Email : jfowler62@cfl.rr.com

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

Editor's note: Gerald and Ralph are both on our list of shipmates that we have been unable to locate

Paul T. Kijewski, SN, 1969

Email : Paultkijewski@yahoo.com

Viewed the log. I remember BM3 Messena and Van Dusen. I was in 1st Division working for Broderick. The old Gunny Sack was a good ship!

Robert Paul Sisco

Dates : 1946-48

Email : mrtitle2@yahoo.com

My father, Robert Sisco, served aboard this ship. He watched the atomic testing. *Ed Note: See item below*

Robert Shaw, EN, 1951

Email : robtshaw@aol.com

Served on temp assignment with Boat Unit One Troop withdrawl after Chinese Offensive

Robert Behm, BM, 1969-73

Email : beamer@ussmonticello.com

Nice website, guys. Please visit us at www.ussmonticello.com

Most Senior of Us?

Paul Sisco, son of **Robert Paul Sisco** has written to tell us of his father's USN service during WW2 part of which was served as a Carpenter's Mate on the Gunston Hall. Robert has recently celebrated his 94th birthday and wonders if he might be the oldest living shipmate. Ant challengers?

In Memoriam

Wayne Thompson, SK, 51-55

Robert Phillips, SN, 51-55



There is an immediate opening for a Newsletter Editor. This prestigious position offers many rewards and flex hours. The pay sucks but you would be helping GHRA a lot!

It could be a shared responsibility with one or more co-editors and Jack Buick, RD, 1956-59, the current editor is available to help out but Jack cannot commit beyond the 2017 reunion.

Please respond to Louie (contact info below) or to webmaster@ussgunstonhall.org.

Generally, if GHRA is going to survive there must be greater participation from the members.

USS Gunston Hall LSD 5 Reunion Association

Louis Walters (CS, 65-69), Chairman

530 Henford Ave.
Kingsford MI 49002
906-774-3918

Bob Beyer, DC, 69-70, Treasurer

3911 Lower Saxtown Rd,
Waterloo, IL 62298-4611

<http://www.ussgunstonhall.org>
E-mail: info@ussgunstonhall.org

U.S.S. Gunston Hall LSD 5

History:

Excerpts from 23 May 1945 Plan of the Day

Officers' Deck Watches

00 – 04	04 – 08	08 – 12	12 – 16	16 – 18
OOD – Lockett	Davis	Wright	Garfield	Gorman
JOOW-Schneider	Hurley	Vinson	Hickman	Sica
18 – 20	20 – 24			
Bracy	Lockett			
Rainey	Hickman			

Day's Engineering Duty Watch Officer – Florenzie

0000 – Rotate Condition III Watch as always.

0550 – Call P.P.O.'s.

0600 – Reveille.

0615 – Turn to. Sweep down and clamp down weather decks.

0645 – Breakfast. The oncoming Watch will eat and then relieve.

0800 – Turn to. Muster on stations. Make reports to Ship's Office.

All compartments must be cleared until 0900. Sick Call.

0900 – Rest period for Section II.

1130 – Pipe sweepers. Dinner for the oncoming Watch.

1200 – Dinner.

1300 – Turn to. Pipe sweepers. All compartments must be cleared until 1400. Send #3 boat with Mail Orderly to LST 890 to deliver outgoing mail.

1400 – Rest period for Section I.

1600 – Pipe sweepers. Supper for the oncoming Watch.

1630 – Supper.

1830 – Sick Call.

1913 – Darken ship.

1945 – Eight o'clock reports to the Executive Officer.

2100 – Taps. Lights out. Silence about the decks.



As she looked in the late 1940s

NOTES: 1. During the next ten days or so we shall have bright moonlight during a large part of every clear night. That probably means more Jap air raids. The Japs still have some planes and they make a few more big concentrated efforts against us, but there is good reason to hope that they won't keep us awake quite as much during this full moon as they did four weeks ago. All hands should store up rest at all opportunities – morning, afternoon and night.

2. During condition I-Easy the 20mm crews have the worst break. One man of each crew must wear the telephones, stand up, and keep a bright lookout. A second man of each crew must be awake, and must not doze, although he may sit and rest. The third member of the crew may fake down, cover up, and caulk off, but he should sleep where he can be reached by the foot of the lookout.

3. The above arrangement is undoubtedly the minimum of alertness that would allow us to get all guns into action in case of a direct attack. On ships that have been hit in this area there have been gun crews, manning their guns, who didn't fire a shot before being entirely wiped out by Jap planes.

/s/ W. F. BENTLEY

NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

(US Navy Version ... Author Unknown)

'Twas the night before Christmas, compartments were still,
The sailors were sleeping, as most sailors will.
The ditty bags hung by the lockers with care,
In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.
The men were all peacefully dreaming in bed
As visions of liberty danced in each head.
The Chief in his skivvies, hopped into his rack,
Having just come from town and a quick midnight snack.

When out on the deck there arose such a roar,
I ran to the porthole to find out the score.
I stuck out my head and started to shout,
Just what in the world is this noise all about?"

A moon made for boondocking showed with a glow,
It was downright cold out, 'bout seven below.
What I saw out there looked like those Mardi Gras floats,
'Twas a Captain's gig drawn by four white Navy goats.

In the boat was a man who seemed quiet and moody,
I knew in an instant St. Nick had the duty.
As quickly as Monday his billy goats came,
He whistled and shouted and called them by name.

"Now Perry, now Farragut, Dewey and Jones,
What's the matter John Paul, got lead in your bones?
A little to Starb'rd, now hold it up short,
No fluffing off now, or you'll go on report!"

He was wearing dress "Reds" that fit like a charm,
His hash marks they covered the length of his arm.
The gifts to be issued were all in his pack,
The gedunk was ready to leave on each rack.

His eyes they were watering, his nose caked with ice,
He wiped it with canvass, then sneezed once or twice.
He opened his mouth and started to yawn,
It looked like the Sun coming up with the dawn.

The stump of a pipe, he held tight in his teeth,
And took a small nip from a bottle beneath.
He wasn't so big, but he must have been strong,
I figured he'd been in SEALs early and long.

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old Tar,
Who said "Evenin' Matey, here have a cigar."
He filled every seabag with presents galore,
And left us all leave papers, right by the door.

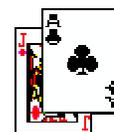
With "Anchors Aweigh" he climbed back into place,
A broad smile was creeping all over his face.
One look at his watch and he started to frown,
"This mid watch is certainly getting me down."

Reminiscing...



At our 2005 Las Vegas reunion we had 68 shipmates and 61 guests. There was a dinner-dance with a live dance band (photo above). Comments received afterwards indicated a very high level of satisfaction. It seems everyone had a good time.

Don't miss out ... plan to be there in 2017. A page will be added to the website in the near future with details as they become available.



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

