SCUTTLEBUTT

A Quarterly Newsletter

June 2018

Presidents Corner

Hello Gambier Bay Family!

Registration is continuing for our 2018 Taffy 3 Reunion hosted by the USS Gambier Bay/USS Kitkun Bay (San Antonio – October 18-21, 2018). Please find enclosed all the necessary information for registration, hotel, and our excursion. Be sure to get your registration in before August 31, 2018 to benefit from the discounted registration fee!

The Association Board of Governors has voted to cover the fee for registration and three nights (Thursday, Friday, Saturday) hotel stay for all of our USS Gambier Bay/VC-10 survivors who attend the reunion. If you have questions, please contact Marlene Hughes at mahome@cox.net.

Your Association Board has decided on a **2019 Taffy 3 Reunion location – SAN DIEGO**. All survivors, family, friends from all Taffy 3 ships are invited. We have confirmation from the St. Lo, and of course the USS Kitkun Bay that they will be joining us. The reunion will be held at the **Holiday Inn Bayside**, **October 23-28th**, **2019**. More info will be available in our next Scuttlebutt (after the reunion), and then it will also be posted on our website home page. **Please save the dates!!!**

FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS – Please remember we have tons of merchandise in our ship store, such as women's Bling Shirts, men's polo shirts, DVDs, our Men of the USS Gambier Bay book, hats, and a special item for you to personalize – a memory granite tile. Also, we have a very limited supply available of our lithograph – The Freedom's Cost. This lithograph was done by R.C. Moore who passed away last July 2017. He and his family have been a great supporter of the Association and have graciously allowed us to use the likeness of the lithograph on some of our merchandise, and as the header page on our website.

Speaking of our website - - - it has been growing and growing! We are just about to add a page 5 to our Survivor/Family Reflections! Thank you, thank you to all family members who have submitted photos, stories, and articles. As you know, it is up to us as second and third generation to keep the website going so we can continue to recognize, honor, and remember all who served on the USS Gambier Bay/VC-10. We are always looking for new photos to add to the website, such as: young Gambier Bay sailors in their uniform, photos from their lives (work, wedding photos, family, or special events). If you have photos or stories you would like to submit, please contact me at pk_grond@yahoo.com.

THANK YOU TO ALL for continuing to support the Association with your purchases, donations, and membership. OUR MISSION AND GOAL IS TO CONTINUE TO HONOR, RECOGNIZE, REMEMBER, AND TO KEEP THE MEMORY ALIVE OF ALL WHO SERVED ON THE USS GAMBIER BAY/VC-10.

I look forward to seeing you at the 2018 reunion in San Antonio!

Paula LaRocco-Grond

APPLICATION FOR USS GAMBIER BAY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP SURVIVORS/WIDOWS DO NOT PAY DUES

| Membership dues are \$15.00 annually or \$100.00 for Lifetime Membership Both options include a subscription to our newsletter, Scuttlebutt |
|---|
| ******************************* |
| Membership Application (please check one) |
| \$15.00 annual dues \$100.00 lifetime dues |
| Name: |
| Address: |
| City/State/Zip: |
| Telephone: |
| Email: |
| Please indicate if you would like your Scuttlebutt subscription emailed or send via the US mail. |
| Additional Information |
| Survivor Name: |
| Crossed the Bar Date: |
| Survivor Rank/Rate: Division: |
| Member relationship to survivor: |

Please Mail Application and Dues (payable to USS Gambier Bay Association) TO

Marlene Hughes 2228 E. Greenlee Road Tucson, AZ 85719-2012

SHIPS MERCHANDISE FORM ALL PRICES INCLUDE SHIPPING COSTS

| | QUANTITY | TOTAL COST |
|---|----------|------------|
| Survivor Oral History from Taffy III 2014 San Diego Reunion \$15.00 | | |
| Taffy III 2014 Memorial Service San Diego, California \$15.00 | | |
| Life of Duty Documentary Featuring Norm St. German and Fred Grabos \$10.00 | | |
| Freedom's Cost Lithograph \$100.00 | | |
| The Men of the USS Gambier Bay Book \$40.00 | | |
| USS Gambier Bay Framed Stamp \$5.00 small frame/\$8.00 large frame | | |
| USS Gambier Bay Hat \$25.00 | | |
| USS Gambier Bay Mouse Pad \$12.00 | | |
| USS Gambier Bay Polo Shirt (mens/womans) (Navy with yellow embroidery) S-M-L-XL - \$33.00 XXL–XXXL – \$38.00 Shipping time is 2 weeks from order | | |
| USS Gambier Bay Womens Bling Shirt Black S-M-L-XL - \$38.00 XXL- XXXL - \$40.00 Shipping time is 2 weeks from order | | |
| I Love the Men of the Gambier Bay Button Pin \$3.00 | | |
| USS Gambier Bay Coffee Mug \$10.00 | | |

RECONCILIATION TOTALS ON NEXT PAGE

SHIPS MERCHANDISE FORM ALL PRICES INCLUDE SHIPPING COSTS

OLIANITITY

TOTAL COST

| | QUANTITI | TOTAL COST | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Personalized Laser Etching Tile \$40.00 Shipping time is 2 weeks from order | | | |
| SEE S | EPARATE ORDER FORM FO ILA AT <u>pk_grond@yahoo.com</u> Air Craft Carrier Lone Sailor | | |
| Example: Tin Can Destroyer | Wording for Top Line Inside (| Circle | |
| SAMILER MANAGE | Wording for Bottom Line In | nside Circle | |
| * MONGO - MALAN - CONNAMA - | Wording for Bottom Outsic | de of Circle | |
| TOTAL ITEMS ORDERED | | | |
| TOTAL ORDER AMOUNT | | | |
| | | | |
| Name | | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | |
| Address | | | |
| City/State/Zip | | | |
| Contact Phone | | | |

Mail Form and Check (payable to USS Gambier Bay Association) to:

Email Address____

Marlene Hughes
USS Gambier Bay Association
2228 E. Greenlee Road
Tucson, Arizona 85719

Mail Call

A message left on our Facebook page 5/3/2018

My name is Hans Juergen Paul, 59 years old and from Germany. I got my Green Card in 2012 and love in Laguna Beach, CA. The first time I was in San Diego was in 2001. This was also the first time I visited the Ft Rosecrans

National Cemetery and was very impressed about the USS Gambier Bay and the V-10 Memorial. I am very interested in US Military History-especially the War in the Pacific. I also have a small collection of US Navy Deck Jackets and US Navy Flight Jackets. One of my Friends in Germany is an artist, and he did awesome work with two of my jackets. I hope you allow me to post the pictures of my jackets on your Facebook page and I also hope you like it.

(Paula posted the pictures and told Hans about the website and about our reunions, he hopes to come to San Diego next year for the 75th.) Below are the pictures of his Navy Jackets.















Mail Call Continued

5/3/2018

Message received on Facebook

I would like to find more information on the upcoming reunion. My Dad was on the Gambier Bay. I have quite a few pictures of him and his shipmates.

Robert Perone. (son of Joseph D Perone AOM 2/c) Crossed the bar in January 1982.

(Paula asked for his e-mail and sent him the information and he sent her his dad's pictures which have been put on the website. Below is a picture of Joseph "Babe" Perone and one with shipmates-one to the right is Robert Bordt-person is the middle is unknown. And to the right is the menu from the ship SS Lurline who brought our survivors home.



Email sent to Marlene 4/11/2018

Hi Marlene, hope this email finds you doing well!

I just booked my travel to the reunion in San Antonio and will be mailing my registration form this week. I'm very excited we will be traveling to Fredricksburg, the museum is amazing! I've been twice, last about a year ago and it was much larger than the 1st time I visited ten years ago!

Two parts that stood out to me personally:

There's a section entitled "The Voices of Leyte" and one of the voices is my Dad. I had no idea and it was very emotional for me but also very proud! He talks about the USS Johnston first spotting the Japanese fleet on the morning of the battle.

Second, there is a room dedicated to the Sullivan Boys and my dad was part of this history. He met the boys at Great Lakes Training Facility and tried to talk them out of serving together. He told them in his somewhat condescending way, "Hey boys, not sure if you heard or not but there is a war going on." My Dad was outspoken about being against this but was eventually told "Hagen, it is not your job to think, just do your job.

Just wanted to share this info and tell you I'm excited to join y'all in San Antonio! See you then!!

Rob Hagen

(Rob joined us at the New Orleans reunion and we are so glad you are joining us this year. What a stories about your Dad. The executive director of the Museum will be joining us on our tour as well as Jim Hornfischer (author of the Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors. The USS Fanshaw Bay is joining us this year as well. It looks to be a great reunion. See you in October!!

Mail Call Continued



5/21/2018

Message received on Facebook from Kelly Schmitz
This is my father Bernard J. Schmitz Jr, USS Gambier Bay survivor, Purple Heart
and rank of AOM 2/c- Feel free to post. He crossed the bar in

(Paula posted the picture on Facebook and our website)

October 2002

May 20,2018

I sent a message via <u>ancestry.com</u> to Kimberly Elder asking her if the person in her family tree was George Edward Arnold a survivor from the USS Gambier Bay. She responded that yes he was and that he was on 2 other ships that sunk during the war besides being on the USS Independence. She sent me his picture which we put on our website and on our Facebook page.

We exchanged a few more e-mails where I told her about the website and facebook and then found out her great uncle was on the same ship as my uncle (USS Hornet) when it sunk on October 26, 1942.

Kimberly was very emotional about this as her great uncle will finally be remembered for his service after all these years.

(Her uncle's picture is in our Memoriam section of the Scuttlebutt and we indeed have added to our Gambier Bay Family)

Editors Comments:

I have been busy not only with the newsletter but I signed the contract for the 2019 reunion which is the 75th Anniversary of the Battle. It will be held in San Diego at the Holiday Inn Bayside on October 23-28th, 2019 (where we had the 70th). Please save the dates.

Everyone always asks how many survivors we have left and I cannot truly say because some on the crew list were never found back in 1969 and some I don't have addresses for. So I started searching on ancestry.com for those shipmates that may have passed. I have found serveral based on the message above and the six names in the Memoriam section. It is very time consuming but rewarding.

This years reunion is coming together, with the help of Board member Linda Shimerda we have a DJ, a singer for the memorial service and the color guard. We also will be joined by the USS Fanshaw Bay this year. So please get your reservations made and send in the registration form.

A few registrations have come in so far. SEE YOU IN OCTOBER!!



In Memoriam Shipmates who have crossed the Bar



Clifford August Neil AMM 2/c 10/11/1922- 4/11/2018

Clifford was born n Pittsfield on October 11, 1922 to the late August J and Eva M. Duval Neil. He attended local schools and was a graduate of Pittsfield High School. He married the former Emma Proctor, who predeceased him on March10, 2001.

He was a <u>US Navy</u> Veteran, having served in <u>World War II</u>. He was a Second Class Aviation Machinist's Mate, and a recipient of the <u>Bronze Star</u>. He was on USS Gambier Bay, which was the only American aircraft carrier sunk by enemy surface gunfire during World War II.

He went on to be a self-employed vending machine operator, installing them and fixing them. He also previously worked as a carpenter and also worked at General Electric Machine Shop.

Clifford was a communicant of St. Joseph Church and previously was a communicant of the former Notre Dame Church. He enjoyed going to O.T.B. His children and grandchildren meant the world to him.

He leaves behind his two daughters, Terese Balsamo of Pittsfield and Katherine Neil of Ocala, FL; his two sons, David Neil of Lanesborough and Clifford Neil Jr., of Summerville, FL; he also leaves nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his son Bob Neil and a grandchild Allison Neil.

Funeral services were held on April 14, 2018.

(Rest in Peace Cliff we will toll the bell for you in October in San Antonio)



George Edward Arnold F 1/c. 9/30/1972

George died from a heart attack in Methuen, MA in 1972 and he had his remains buried at sea so he could be with his shipmates that had died during the war.

He served on two other ships which were sunk as well during the war. The one ship was the USS Hornet which was the same ship my uncle Leonard G. Martin was on when it sunk 10/25/1942. His great Niece says they don't have the name of the other ship but he also served on the USS Independence as a Fireman.

(We will toll the bell for you George at the next memorial service in San Antonio Rest in Peace)



In Memoriam Shipmates who have crossed the Bar

Ygnacio Hinojosa Avila SS2/c 7/14/1952

Marcus Henry Bahr Sr. S2/c 12/27/2008

Kenneth Milton Neugart S2/c 1/18/1997

James Barthlow S2/c. 10/29/2004

Thomas E. Clavell Jr. AMM1/c 11/1985

Raymond A Tribbett RM1/c. 7/26/1985





The Kissing Sailor

The rest of the story.....

George Mendonsa turned 95 on February 19th. He is a Navy veteran with two years of service on the USS The Sullivans DD 537 and just happened to be in Times Square on August 14th, 1945. He was among the hundreds of enlisted, nurses, and civilians that took to the streets in celebration of the end of the war. There were tears, hugs and kisses captured by photographers that day. Life Magazine included a now iconic photo in the August 27th 1945 issue. (It was not on the cover.) George is "The Kissing Sailor".

Check the rest of his story on youtube Profiles in Valor: George Mendonsa, "The Kissing Sailor"

https://youtu.be/AKx5TpdokvY

Miscellaneous

Below is a picture of a Bob Cat who had jumped on top of a neighbors carport the beginning of May. When the cat jumped off he was able to run to the backyard and take this picture. Tucson, AZ



ALWAYS READ THE LABELS ON THE FOODS YOU BUY--NO MATTER WHAT THE FRONT OF THE BOX OR PACKAGE SAYS, TURN IT OVER AND READ THE BACK---CAREFULLY!

With all the food and pet products now coming from China, it is best to make sure you read label at the grocery store and especially Walmart when buying food products.

Many products no longer show where they were made, only give where the distributor is located. It is important to read the bar code to track it's origin.

How to read Bar Codes interesting!

This may be useful to know when grocery shopping,

if it's a concern to you.

GREAT WAY TO "BUY USA & CANADA"

AND NOT FROM CHINA!!

The whole world is afraid of China-made *black hearted goods".

Can you differentiate which one is made in Taiwan or China?

If the first 3 digits of the barcode are 690, 691 or 692, the product is MADE IN CHINA.

471 is Made in Taiwan.

This is our right to know, but the government and related departments never educate the public, therefore we have to RESCUE ourselves.

Nowadays, Chinese businessmen know that consumers do not prefer products "MADE IN CHINA", so they don't show from which country it is made. However, you may now refer to the barcode- remember if The first 3 digits are:

690-692 ... MADE IN CHINA

00 - 09 ... USA & CANADA

30 - 37 ... FRANCE

40 - 44 ... GERMANY

471 ... Taiwan

49 ... JAPAN

50 ... UK

Buy USA & Canadian Made by watching for "0" at the beginning of the number. We need every boost we can get.



Reunion Itinerary

| Thursday- Oct 18th- | Registration in Hospitality room by 1pm in Salon | 3 |
|---------------------|--|---|
|---------------------|--|---|

Welcome Reception in the East Atrium at 7PM

Friday- Oct 19th- 7:45AM-4:30PM -Pacific War Museum in Fredericksburg, TX

Box Lunch included

Friday- Oct 19th- Dinner on your own

Saturday- Oct 20th- 9:30 Board Meeting in La Terraza Room

Saturday- Oct 20th- Banquet 5PM-10PM in Salon -there will a DJ and a raffle

Sunday- Oct 21st- 10:30AM Memorial Service and Luncheon following

The Hospitality Room will be open every day from 8am to 10pm during the reunion except for the banquet, memorial service and luncheon.

Any questions, comments please contact Marlene Hughes at 520-326-0747 or mahhome@cox.net. Please get your registrations in as early as possible by 8/31/2018

Tour of the Pacific War Museum

The 6-acre, 3-museum complex is rich with stunning macro-artifacts, interactive exhibits and poignant reminders of the sacrifices that war demands. They have a Pacific Combat Zone, a unique indoor/outdoor exhibit featuring restored WWII military vehicles and weaponry situated in replicated docks, entrenchments and beachheads.

Take in the Memorial Courtyard to see our plaques and others of Taffy 3.

All veterans and their wives get in free and they have wheelchairs and motorized chairs to use for those in need free of charge. The tour price includes admission, lunch & the bus.

We will be having our lunch at 12noon in the motor pool area.

The staff at the museum is excited to welcome our group and Taffy 3 Veterans.



Welcome to the Taffy 3 Reunion hosted by USS Gambier Bay & USS Kitkun Bay

When: October 18-22nd

Where: Doubletree by Hilton San Antonio Airport

Rate: \$113 & 16.75% Tax

This rate is good for 3 days before and after reunion. Cut off date is Thursday 9/20/2018

To make reservations by phone:

Call 1-210-366-2424 ask for reservations and give them the group code of UGB for the group rate. A standard King or Double Double room (2 Double beds)

To make reservations on line:

Simply copy and paste the URL below into your browser to access the discounted rates. Booking Link: https://secure3.hilton.com/en_US/dt/reservation/book.htm? inputModule=HOTEL&ctyhocn=SATNSDT&spec_plan=CDTUGB&arrival=20181018&depart ure=20181021&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT

Check-in time is 3:00 pm, check-out time is 12:00 pm. There is a a charge of \$50 if you check out before your reserved check out time. Just notify the front desk at check in if your plans have changed since you made the reservation.

Free Airport Shuttle-call 210-366-2424 and press 1 for Shuttle Pick Up

The shuttle departs on the hour and half hour starting at 4am to 12am The shuttle can be used within a 2 mile radius including the Quarry Market

Non-smoking rooms-A \$250 fee will be charged for smoking in a non-smoking room. Each room has a coffee maker, Iron/Ironing Board, Hair dryer, WiFi access (fees apply) Hilton Honor members get wifi free.

Please check out the Doubletree website for more information on the Hotel. http://doubletree3.hilton.com/en/hotels/texas/doubletree-by-hilton-hotel-san-antonio-airport-SATNSDT/accommodations/rooms.html



Board of Governors & Officers 2017-2019

1. Paula Grond, President 13632 Carpintino Ave Bellflower, CA 90706 Telephone: 562-866-1192 E-Mail: pk_grond@yahoo.com

2. Lauren Bagen-Buhl, Vice President 1944 Paris Plano, TX 75025 Telephone: 972-489-7281

E-Mail: lauren.bagen.buhl@gmail.com

3. Marlene Hughes, Treasurer 2228 E Greenlee Rd Tucson, AZ 85719-2012 Telephone: 520-326-0747 E-Mail: mahhome@cox.net

4. Linda Shimerda, Secretary 9110 Trails St San Antonio, TX 78250 Telephone: 210-680-1574 E-Mail: kayshimer@yahoo.com

5. Jennifer Wheeler, Governor 4122 Blossom St Columbia, SC 29205-2849 Telephone: 860-816-4236 E-Mail:phanchap@live.com

6. Tom Westbrook, Governor 5958 Lookingglass
Roseburg, OR 97471
Telephone: 650-248-3987
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7. Lucille Gutzwiler, Governor 212 W Edgemont Wenatchee, WA 98801 Telephone: 509-663-1406 E-Mail: luciqutz@nwi.net

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E-Mail: bagen@verizon.net

9. Susan Turner, Governor 14875 Creekside Lane Longmont, CO 80503 Telephone: 303-485-8815 Email: turnersan31@gmail.com

10. Mark Heinl, Governor 217 Eastview Dr Coldwater, OH 45828-1506 Telephone: 419-678-8168 E-Mail: heinl_22@hotmail.com

11. Norm St. Germain, Governor 1231 N Street Springfield, OR 97477 Telephone: 541-736-6759

12. Dean Moel, Governor 1761 Racine Avenue, NE, A-1 Solon, Iowa 52333 Telephone: 319-430-4348



The Lone Sailor at the US Navy Museum in Washington, D.C.

Below is the Gambier Bay being built in 1943



Taffy 3 Registration form

| Registrant information | | Date Arriving | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------|
| Please Print Ship/Squadron | | Survivor | Associate | |
| First Name | | | | |
| Address: | | City; | S | State |
| Zip:Phone | Cell: | Email: | | |
| Vegetarian? YesNOFoo | od Allergies or | Dietary Restrictions | s? | |
| Guest Information Relationship | | Date Arriving | | |
| First Name | | ast Name | | |
| Address | | | | |
| Vegetarian? YesNoFo | _ | | | |
| If this is anyone's first time att | ending a reuni | ion please circle the | name. | |
| Event | Day | Cost per person | # attending | Total |
| Registration Fee by | 8/31/2018 | \$30 | | \$ |
| Registration Fee after | 9/14/2018. | \$40 | | \$ |
| Pacific WWII Museum. | Fri-10/19 | \$57 | | \$ |
| Banquet (see choices below) | Sat-10/20. | \$41 | | \$ |
| Luncheon- at Hotel (see choices below) | Sun-10/21 | \$30 | | \$ |
| (see choices below) | | | Grand Total | \$ |
| Banquet Choices | | Qty | & Names | |
| New York Strip Roast w/ Wild & Garlic Mashed Potato | Mushroom De | emi | | |
| Blacken Salmon -Grilled w/Caj & Rice Pilaf | jun Cream Sau | ice | | |
| Luncheon Choices. Chicken Marsala w/ Marsala M | Iushroom Saud | ce | | |
| Vegetable Lasagna Three cheese Vegetable Lasagn w/ Herb & Garlic Tomato Sauce | | | | |

Continued Taffy 3 Registration Form

| All Banquet and Luncheon choices come with Garden Green Salad, Seasonal Vegetables, | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Fresh Bread w/butter, Choice of Dessert and Coffee and Iced Tea. | | | |
| Box Lunch at Pacific WWII Museum will be a Sandwich w/choice of bread, potato chips, a cookie and a drink. Each sandwich will have lettuce & tomatoes w/mayo & mustard served on the side. | | | |
| Turkey | Wheat | | |
| Ham | White | | |
| Chicken Salad | Rye | | |
| Veggie (includes avocado) | Gluten Free | | |
| Please list your name with the type | e sandwich & choice of bread. | | |
| 1 | 2 | | |
| 3 | 4 | | |
| If you have more people coming li of paper | st the names with required information on a separate piece | | |
| everyone to list what they pre | | | |
| Alcohol Soda- | | | |
| L. Juua- | | | |

Mail these two forms with a check to Marlene Hughes 2228 E Greenlee Rd, Tucson, AZ 85719-2012

Cut off date for Registration is 9/20/2018
Cut off date to get special rate at hotel is 9/21/2018

5. Anything else-____

Any questions call Marlene at 520-326-0747 or mahhome@cox.net

Taffy 3 Reunion

Hosted by USS Gambier Bay & USS Kitkun Bay Associations San Antonio, Texas Save the Dates October 18-22nd 2018

Help us Commemorate the 74th Anniversary of the Battle of Leyte Gulf

Bring your children, grandchlidren, nieces and nephews. Let them be aware of the the strong history your ship had in WWII.



The Latest Scoop from around the

"Scuttlebutt"

Return to
Marlene Hughes
2228 E Greenlee Rd
Tucson, AZ 85719-2012
Address Service requested