SCUTTLEBUTT

A Quarterly Newsletter

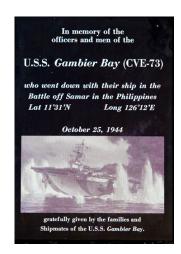
March 2018

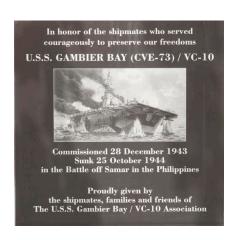
Presidents Corner

Hello Gambier Bay Family!

Registration is now open for our 2018 Taffy 3 Reunion which is hosted by the USS Gambier Bay and USS Kitkun Bay (San Antonio, October 18-21). We look forward to reuniting with survivors, family, and friends from all the ships in Taffy 3. Again, this year, the Association Board of Governors has voted to cover the fee for registration and three nights hotel stay (Thursday, Friday, Saturday) for all USS Gambier Bay/VC-10 survivors who attend the reunion. For details or questions, please contact Marlene Hughes at mahhome@cox.net.

Please find enclosed all the necessary information for registration, hotel, and our excursion to the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg. The Association has two USS Gambier Bay/VC-10 memorial plaques in their Memorial Garden. The first small one, showing our first lithograph, the Final Hour, is located on the east wall in the Courtyard, Row 1, Section 19. Our second larger one, showing our current lithograph, Freedom's Cost, is located on Bracket Wall 4, Row 0 near the Propeller Fountain.





At our 2017 Board meeting it was discussed to streamline the way we send out our Scuttlebutt publication and it was decided to discontinue the US mail option.

PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL STILL OFFER THE US MAIL OPTION TO OUR SURVIVORS AND WIDOWS.

If you are currently receiving your Scuttlebutt publication via the US mail and have an email address, please help us Go Green (while saving postage costs) and email Marlene Hughes your email address at mahhome@cox.net so she can add you to the distribution list. As a side note - - you can always visit our website and download current and previous Scuttlebutt publications.

Our website has been growing and growing! Thank you to all survivors and family members who have submitted photos, stories, and videos. We are always looking for new photos to post, such as: young Gambier Bay sailors in their uniform, photos from their lives, work, family, or special events. If you have photos or stories you would like to submit, please contact me at pk_grond@yahoo.com.

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

Paula LaRocco-Grond President

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

	QUANTITY	TOTAL COST			
Personalized Laser Etching Tile \$40.00 Shipping time is 2 weeks from order					
OTHER OPTIONS FOR ETCHINGS FOR DESIGN AND WORDING AVAILABLE SEE SEPARATE ORDER FORM FOR EXAMPLES (CONTACT PAULA AT <u>pk_grond@yahoo.com</u> for questions/orders) Air Craft Carrier Lone Sailor US Flag					
Example: Tin Can Destroyer	Wording for Top Line Inside (Circle			
HONOR - BUTY - COUNTRY -	Wording for Bottom Line In	nside Circle			
	Wording for Bottom Outsic	de of Circle			
TOTAL ITEMS ORDERED					
TOTAL ORDER AMOUNT					
Name					
Address					
City/State/Zip					
Contact Phone					
Email Address					

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

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

Mail Call

Posted on the website 2/18/2018

My father, Marvin J Cole served on and was wounded when the USS Gambier Bay was sunk. He left the military life sometime after that, only to return to the Navy until he retired. Growing up, we knew he had been on a ship that sunk during the war, but he refused to talk about it. We were not allowed to

ask any questions. That part of his life remained a mystery. We whispered so much about it that I never knew what was fact or fiction. Until I found this website. The survivor stories on here are so similar to what my siblings and I talked about. I have finally understood that my fathers way of dealing with such a tragedy was not to talk about it. Thank you so much to everyone who put so much work and effort into this website. What a treasure trove of information! I can tell my children and grandchildren about all of the heroes of the USS Gambier Bay! My father passed away in March of 1999. Thank you again! Christine Moore

(Paula responded to her for finding our website and for the compliments. We updated the website with the date her father crossed the bar and invited her to attend the next reunion. Paula also mentioned that most of us were in the same position as her, as our fathers did not talk about their experiences.)

Posted on the website 2/19/2018

Thank you so much for your work on this wonderful website.

Several years ago my mother in law had told me she lost a brother in WWII. For the life of her she could n't remember where. She was only 14 in 1944. She mentioned some place called Gambier Bay... After some more prodding of her I discovered it was in the Leyte Gulf. I soon discovered his ship was the Gambier Bay. She's passed on now but if I ever find a picture of her brother Daniel Joseph Schniederjans I'll be glad to share it. I shared your web site with my wife so that she could see some history of an uncle she never knew.

Michael

(Paula thanked Michael and told him we would love the photo when he found one. She mentioned our next reunion and the Scuttlebutt.)

Received from Judy Davis 1/19/2018

Hello Marlene,

Thank you for all you do to keep the memory of the USS Gambier Bay alive. To help save money on mailing expenses, please send any future issues to my e-mail address. I believe you already have it on file.

Thank you (Judy thanks for the order of mugs and wanting your Scuttlebutt e-mailed. I was surprised when I **Judy Davis.** got a check for the cost of mailing the mugs. Thank you so much from the association.)

A note from Nancy Shlesman Ponder

Hi Marlene

Thank you for your kind words about our Dad, Aaron. We are so glad that we got to be part of the Gambier Bay family. It means so much to us. Hopefully we'll see you at one of reunions soon.

(We loved getting to know Aaron and your family. It was great seeing you guys in Wisconsin and in San Diego.)

Mail Call Continued

Letter received 8/1/2017

Hello Marlene,

Last week I visited the cemetery where two of our relatives, both who died in WWII, are buried. My Uncle John Smith had four boys who served I the military during the war. Two returned home and two were killed in action just months apart, as you will see on their tombstone.



Ernest James Smith served on the USS Gambier Bay. You can see on his marker that the ship's name is not spelled correctly as it reads USS Gambear Bay. Also, when I looked at the names of the men on the ship on line, it shows his rank as G.M.2/c, however the marker shows G.M. 3/c.

Actually Ernest was buried at sea and only his brother Edgar was in the casket which was closed and attended by a member of the military. The funeral service was held for both men much later than their actual deaths.

Their burial site is located at Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church in Union, SC. where many members of the Smith family are also buried.

I love the newsletter "ScuttleButt" and thought you would be interested in our connection to the great USS Gambier Bay and its heroes.

Best regards,

Judy Smith Davis.

(Judy-thank you for sending your letter it is always nice to hear about our KIA. If you have a picture of Ernest we would love to put it on the website-send it via e-mail in jpeg format. As far as Ernest's rank is concerned it was taken from the ship's roster at the end of the war. I only put up one picture you sent me because the other was too light.



Mail Call Continued

Received this letter 10/30/2017

Dear Marlene,

Just a few lines to say thanks again for us having a good time at the 2017 Reunion. Without you and Paula it would not be possible. I still wake up every morning with a smile on my face thinking of all those nice things Ellen and I won at the

raffle. See you next year in Texas.

Yours Truly

Bob & Ellen Belcoure

PS: got the litho on the October 27th

Enclosed is that clipping I had and forgot about. Hope it helps you. Look at the

date of 11/1/04. (Thanks Robert for the compliment. I could not put this in the last Scuttlebutt so here is the article. We are so glad you had a good time and won the signed litho. Interesting article about a nice young man who was inspired by his grandfather (Dominick Bianco)

Zoe Christian senior inspired by WWII grandfather

Macomb Daily Staff Writer

By Robert Selwa 1/-/-04

Christianity and service to others who are less fortunate are motivating forces for Jordan Robinet, the Ma-

comb Daily Student of the Week.



ROBINET

A senior at Zoe Christian High School on Masonic in Warren, Jordan grew up inspired by his late grandfather's experiences in World War II, and said he would like to enter the military service and serve in Iraq.

Jordan, son of Gino and Desiree Robinet of Sterling Heights, said "the Bible talks about people who are more fortunate helping those less fortunate, and the strong helping the weak. I feel that applies to

our strong country helping the weaker and less-fortunate countries."

Jordan's late grandfather Dominick Bianco of Eastpointe served with the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific in World War II. Jordan grew up fascinated with accounts by servicemen of his grandfather's heroic role in events with his ship, the U.S.S. Gambier Bay, which was sunk Oct. 25, 1944. The grandfather and others clung to anything that would float and were rescued after two days. They received citations from the Navy for out-

Student of the week

standing service throughout the war.

Jordan spent the past two summers doing Christian missionary work in impoverished sections of New York and Los Angeles. "People told us how we touched their lives," he said,

With an "A" average at Zoe, Jordan is president of the student council and the senior class, captain of the football teant, plays varsity basketball, serves on the spiritual council, and is active in the National Honor Society, youth leadership team and school worship team.

He plays guitar in both school and at Grace Christian Church in Warren, and enjoys time with his family including brother Josiah and sisters Abigail and Hannah.

Jordan is considering several options including the various branches of military service or a college with a Reserve Officer Training Corps. He is considering eventually a career as a police officer as a way to help people.

Macomb Dally Students of the Week are selected in advance by schools with the approval of the Macomb County Secondary Principals Association. Each student qualifies to compete for a scholarship from the following universities: Central Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Fords State, Grand Valley State, Michigan State, Michigan Technological, Oakland, or Western Michigan.





George Feliz, Norm St Germain Dean Moel & Carl Amundson

Susan Bagen & Cindy Young Marlene Hughes & Lauren Bagen Buhl

Editors Comments:

Getting this Scuttlebutt out took some time due to a change of personnel at the Hotel and trying to finalize all the details. Well it is done and hopefully we see some new people at the reunion. We have added more rooms to the room block because the USS Fanshaw Bay has decided to join us. So get your reservations in early and send in those registrations. My husband and I will be driving to San Antonio so we can bring more memorabilia and the last man standing bottle of whiskey given to us from the Clete Ring Family. Have a wonderful spring.



In Memoriam

Shipmates who have crossed the Bar

August Robert Sankey 1926 - 2018

August Robert "Gus" Sankey, 91, husband of Sharon Weaver Sankey, entered into rest Tuesday, January 16, 2018.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2:00 PM on Friday, January 19, 2018, at Starling-Evans Funeral Home, Harlem, Ga., with Full Military Honors accorded. The <u>US Navy</u> will have a burial at sea at a later date.

Visitation will be held on Friday from 1-2 PM at the funeral home.

As Navy Seaman First Class, Gus served in <u>WWII</u> on the US Gambier Bay and retired from the US <u>Army</u> as Sergeant First Class. He was the recipient of numerous Military awards and medals including the <u>Purple Heart</u> Award and WWII Victory Medal. Gus was also retired from General Motors Internal Security.

Survivors include his wife, Sharon W. Sankey; stepson, Kelvin David Prickett; stepdaughter, Kala Alaina Morris (Caleb); grandchildren, Michael and Kaitlyn Prickett, Kaylee, Holley, Hailey, Cyilee, Payzel, Abel and Brinley Morris; his best friend, Jerry Nobles; father-in-law Allen Weaver; and mother-in-law, Edith Ann Fitzgerald (Joseph).

The family would like to extend their thanks to the staff of Charlie Norwood VA Uptown Division for their outstanding services at the Care Clinics CLC 3C, CLC 1C and Hospice 2B. We will forever be grateful to everyone who had a part in his care.

Family request memorials be made to the Wounded Warrior Project.

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



The photo on the left is August receiving a radio while in the hospital after the ship sunk.. Middle photo of him in his Navy uniform.

The photo on the right is August with his family, Kala, Kelvin, Sharon in December 2016.

Richard C. Moore

I have had the opportunity to read some tributes to my father, Richard C. Moore, but this is the first time I've been asked to write one, and for that I am very grateful. My dad painted the ship portrait of the **USS Gambier Bay**. It was one of the earlier commissioned paintings he did and he was very gratified by both the results and the warm reception it received from the Association members.

My dad's love of the sea was planted early on by his father who worked as a salesman for the American Hawaiian Steamship Corporation. He had very early memories of being taken to the docks in Philadelphia and we are very lucky to have an elementary school painting he did of one of the bridges. He attended the University of Pennsylvania on an NROTC scholarship and from there entered the Navy as a communications officer on the USS Saufley and the USS John Paul Jones before leaving to study theology at Princeton Seminary and returning to the Navy as a chaplain. Rather significantly, he met my mother, Toshii, a Japanese exchange student at Princeton, and it short-circuited his naval career but, ultimately, led to my brother and me. So, the Navy's loss was our gain.

It is impossible to relate my father's story from then on without my mother as his constant companion, best friend, significant other, and "other half". Together, they served parishes in Pennsylvania and New Jersey for the next 30 years before retiring to Hampton, Virginia for 10 years during which time they traveled extensively to destinations near and far. While in Hampton, my father enjoyed both the proximity to the ocean and the naval culture in Norfolk and Newport News. This was a period of prolific painting, the scope of which escaped us until we had to clear out his apartment and storage lockers!

One comment, which we hear repeatedly from both artists and admirers, concerns my father's "knack" for painting water. He was a perfectionist in many ways and it isn't surprising that he would direct such attention to delivering realistic water in his work. He was also a tinkerer and liked to understand the things which excited him. Hence, he made his own stereo...his own telescope...his own ship models, and even dragged my mother into the California desert to find the exact filming locations of his favorite film, "Gunga Din". I can imagine that he spent a lot of his time in the Navy staring at the water just trying to "figure it out". Whether through intuition or study, he did seem to master it as his paintings attest. But, at the root of it all, was his love for the sea and his desire to "do it justice" in his paintings.

In his later retirement, my dad would wear naval caps, which had been given to him throughout the years. Very often, people would come up to him and thank him for his service, which he would then clarify by explaining his association to the various caps. I think he loved this connection to the Navy but he was always very reticent to accept more than his share of praise or gratitude. In the back of his mind, I don't think he ever lost sight of the sacrifices that many veterans and their families made and continue to make and he was respectfully grateful for that. I think that was behind his pride in being associated with the Gambier Bay Association. Thank you all for making him a member of your extended family!

This tribute was provided by Mr. Moore's son, Bill. We are so grateful for Mr. Moore and now for his family for their continued support to the survivors and family members of the USS Gambier Bay/VC-10 Association.

Mr. Moore passed in July 2017. (We tolled the bell for Mr. Moore at last years reunion)







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

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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

In Appreciation

Thank you to all the names listed for your donation, buying from the ship's store, subscription or lifetime membership. All of this helps the association spread the word about that fateful day on October 25, 1944.

Judy Davis
Sally Loats
Chris Shelvik



The George Feliz family last October in Seattle



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,				
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.				
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