

SCUTTLEBUTT

A Quarterly Newsletter

March 2016



USS Gambier Bay/VC-10 Survivors at 2016 New Orleans, LA Reunion

Seated is Carl Amundson, standing left to right is George Feliz and Norm St Germain



Seated from left to right are Gambier Bay survivors Carl Amundson, Norm St Germain & George Feliz.

Kitun Bay survivors Jack Bacastow, Don Wilson, Ron Vaughn & Bob Herfurth



Presidents' Corner

Hello Gambier Bay Family!

What a great time we had in New Orleans at our USS Gambier Bay/USS Kitkun Bay reunion. We had a great time reconnecting with our survivors, friends, and family. This year we had quite a few family members for the first time!

Our excursion this year took us to the World War II museum and it was such a wonderful experience to be able to have the time to tour all the museum has to offer – we spent the whole day there.

I am so excited to announce that our 2017 reunion will be October 19 – 23 in Seattle, Washington, and will again be joint with the USS Kitkun Bay. We will be staying at the DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Seattle Airport Southcenter. We are in the final stages securing all the details for our memorial service, banquet, and excursions. Please mark your calendars for the reunion dates!

We are working on new information on our website. We now have the black background restored and it is amazing at how GREAT it looks. We still have some tweaks to finish and are always looking for new information, stories, photos. If you have any information, stories or photos you would like to share, please send to me at pk_grond@yahoo.com / if you have any questions on your submittals, just let me know.

SECOND AND THIRD GENERATION FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS – Please help support the Association with purchases from our ships store and membership. Enclosed you will find an order form for all of our great merchandise in our ships store and also a membership application. A lifetime membership is \$100 or you join on a yearly basis for \$15/year. This money goes towards us printing our Newsletter 4 times a year.

Thank you for continuing to support the Association. Our mission and goal is to continue to honor, recognize, and keep the memory alive of all who served on the USS Gambier Bay/VC-10.

I look forward to seeing everyone in 2017 in Seattle.

Paula Grond
President

Paula and Marlene standing behind our survivors Carl, Norm & George holding a throw that was donated for the raffle.

**Please like us on Facebook-
USS Gambier Bay**



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 \$75.00	_____	_____
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 \$10.00	_____	_____
USS Gambier Bay Polo Shirt (mens/womans) (Navy with yellow embroidery) S-M-L-XL - \$30.00 XXL-XXXL - \$35.00 Shipping time is 2 weeks from order	_____	_____
USS Gambier Bay Womens Bling Shirt Black S-M-L-XL - \$35.00 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
\$35.00
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 pk_grond@yahoo.com for questions/orders)

Air Craft Carrier
Lone Sailor
US Flag

Example: Tin Can Destroyer

Wording for Top Line Inside Circle

Wording for Bottom Line Inside Circle

Wording for Bottom **Outside** 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



In Memoriam

Shipmates who have crossed the Bar

Louis "Lou" Rice 07/17/2016 RDM 3/c

Rice Louis "Lou" William Rice, 93, departed from this earthly life on July 17, 2016. Louis was a WWII Veteran who served in the US Navy from 1941-1945 as a Radarman Third Class on the USS Gambier Bay. He was a member of the Yeatman Lodge #162 F and A M and was the founder and owner of Lou Rice & Associates. Lou is preceded in death by his parents Albert and Ordell Rice, siblings Robert "Bob" Rice, and Jean Houchins. Lou is survived by his wife of 32 years, Toshi; sister, Betty Vanderwalle; children, Joy Marcum, Joseph Rice, Jill DePriest (Steve), Jeri Wood (Jeff), Jeff Rice, and Susan Weber (Ben); grandchildren, Jan Marcum, Jennifer Davis, Matthew Rice (Crystal), Lindsay Hohman (Neil), Luke DePriest, Josh Wood (Jenie), Jayson Wood, Aubrey Webth and Ava Weber; and several great grandchildren. He will be forever missed but never forgotten by all whose lives he touched.
(Rest in Peace Lou and we tolled the bell for him in New Orleans)



Myrna Wells 07/15/1925 - 08/27/2015

Our beloved mother Myrna (Winning) Wells, formerly of Binford, ND, passed away Thursday, August 27, 2015 in the Griggs County Care Center, Cooperstown, ND. She was 90. She went to meet her Lord on her only son Timothy's birthday.

Mom was born July 15, 1925, in Wimbledon, ND the daughter of Henry and Elsie (Baumgartner) Winning. She grew up and attended school there.

On March 31, 1946 she married the love of her life, Waldo E. Wells and from this union came four children, Lillian, Wanda, Timothy and Renae.

Her faith and zest for life, her kindness to others and her sense of humor were portrayed in many facets of her life. Mom was multitalented but first and foremost a loving wife and mother. She was an excellent seamstress, sewing well into the night to finish a dress for one of us girls' special occasions or a

She is survived by her daughters, Lillian (John) Paintner, Cooperstown, ND, Wanda (Callan) Nevalnd, Hailey, ID, Renae (Keith) Backes, Sidney, MT; daughter-in-law, Neva Walsh, Williston, ND; seven grandchildren and sixteen great grandchildren, numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mom was preceded in death by her son, Timothy, February 11, 1989, husband Waldo, December 24, 1999 and great granddaughter Avery Vader. Her strong faith brought her through that knowing she would be reunited with them one day.

Funeral services were held Wed, September 2, 2015 at eh Grace Luthern Church, Cooperstown, ND.

(Rest in Peace Myrna-Waldo was a Seaman 1/c who survived and was wounded) We tolled the bell in her honor in New Orleans)

Vivian J. St Germain 06/25/1926- 11/5/2016

Vivian, 90 of Springfield, OR passed away on November 5th after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. She is survived by her husband and survivor Norman St Germain and they were married 71 years.

(Rest in Peace Vivian-you always had a smile on your face-we will toll the bell for you at the memorial service in Seattle)

Roberta "June" Allison 07/15/1927- 09/16/2016

June Allison, 88, of Elkhart, IN passed away after an extended illness on September 16th. She is survived by her husband and survivor Charles "Pat" Allison they were married 67 years. Also surviving are her children, Jill S. Allison and Thomas R. Allison (Lynn), both of Elkhart; and granddaughter Lindsay (Paul) McComick of Auburn, Al. *(Rest in Peace June-we will toll the bell for you at the memorial service in Seattle)*

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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.

*June Patti
Paula Grond
Judy Davis
Chad Murry
Don Kurtze Jr.
Harry Vest
Norm & Sally Loats
Rudolph Biller
Diane Gjestvang
Marlene Hughes
Susan Turner
Linda Shimerda
Denise Willhoit
Charles Waddell
Steve Lanier
Tom Westbrook
Lucille Gutzwiler
Lauren Bagen Buhl
Andy Ramirez
Norm St Germain
Diana Fellure
Julie Stoker*



*Wisconsin residents
Clete Ring and George
Legath meeting in
Milwaukee.*

Looking good fellows!

Mail Call

Sent to Marlene from Scott Boggs

07/2016

Dear Marlene:

Thanks for keeping the stories alive! I so enjoy the stories about the "greatest generation". All the best to you and the group.

Keep me on distribution list but save postage, add me to the email list.

Thanks

Scott Boggs (*Scott is the son of Robert Boggs who was our Association President for about 19 years-thanks for letting me put you on the e-mail list*)



Received from Rudolph Biller

08/03/2016

Sorry I can't attend the Reunion but I am not able to travel distances away more, I am 91 now.

Thank you for keeping up this publication.

Rudolph (*Thanks for the donation and dues, wishing you a Merry Christmas*)

Sent to Marlene from Peggy Crain

10/04/16

Dear Marlene

It was an honor and a pleasure to sing at the memorial service.

Please keep me in mind if y'all ever return to the New Orleans area!

You did a great job!

Thank you,

Peggy

(*Peggy did a wonderful job singing at the memorial service*)

E-mail received from Jacquelyn Clifford

12/7/16

Hi Ms. Hughes,

My name is Jackie Clifford and my grandfather was on the USS Gambier Bay. My grandmother gave me your contact information because I'm writing a piece on the ship and she thought you may be able to answer some of my questions.

I was wondering if you had any information about how many people were on the ship total and about how many passed on after the ship sank? Let me know if you would be able to help with this project and know this information.

Thanks,

Jackie Clifford

Washington and Lee University '17

Accounting and Business Administration

(*I sent Jackie the information and hopefully we see her article on the ship*)

E-mail received from Jeannette Hall (Survivor Fred Grabos daughter)

10/22/2016

Marlene,

Before I forget to mention it, dad's doing fine. By fine I mean, he's comfortable and seems happy. He is at the point where he remembers practically nothing. It seems the only person he recognizes is me and sometimes that's not for sure. He doesn't even remember his care givers from one minute to the next. Speaking of care givers, they are wonderful. He loves their hugs and kisses. It is so nice to see him smile and laugh with me and his care givers. There are 3 that are assigned to him and that stays pretty constant regardless of the day or shift. It makes me happy that he's so well taken care of. They keep him really nice and clean, shaved and his clothes are also clean. That's actually better than when he lived by himself!

I have picked up and going to send you some brochures of things to do in Seattle. I'm not sure what Bremerton has to offer but the ferry ride is pretty especially if the weather is nice. However, the Washington State Ferries are
Continued on next page

Mail Call Continued

not cruise ships. Brian and I went to Seattle a couple of times in the last few weeks and it's disgusting how dirty the boats are getting.

I didn't find a brochure for Argosy Cruises but check out their web sight. They have several harbour tours that are nice.

Glad to you are at the Southcenter in Seattle for the Reunion.

Keeping in touch, (Glad to hear Fred is doing well- and hopefully we can see him when we come to the reunion next Oct. Fred was 95 on August 1st. Give him a kiss and a hug from me.)
Jeannette

Pictures from the Reunion in New Orleans

Norm St Germain and Paula Grond



Chris & Matt Kennedy



Paula & Noah tossing the raffle tickets



Susan Bagen, Cindy Young & Lauren Bagen Buhl



Our Color Guard- Coast Guard Cadets



Reunion Pictures:

Marlene Hughes & Bob Shrieve



Victor Buhl, Lauren Buhl, Tom Westbrook, Norm St Germain & Phil Young



Marlene Hughes, Al Cender and Paula Grond underneath our reunion sign.



Bill Detweiler-guest speaker & Norm St Germain



**A bunch of us waiting to begin our tour of the National Pacific War Museum.
John Shore, Don Wilson
Victor Buhl, Susan Bagen
Bob Greenwald, Susan Turner
Paula Grond and her cousin Susan Satterly
Bob Shrieve, Linda Shimerda, Patti Schott
Dorothy Henry**

Reunion Photos

Andy & Vicki Ramirez



Robert Belcoure & daughter Pam Archambault



Denise Willhoit & Matt Eelman giving eulogies at the memorial service



Our singer Peggy Crain did a wonderful job.



Next years reunion will at the Doubletree Suites by Hilton, Seattle Airport Southcenter.

The dates are October 19-23rd at the rate of \$109 plus tax. We will have the rates 3 days before and after.

We have a free airport shuttle and a Full Hot Buffet Breakfast for up to 2 per room.

They are giving us a Complimentary Managers Reception on the night of October 19th.

We also will have a complimentary Personalized webpage for guests reservations. All this information will be in the next Scuttlebutt.

This hotel is next door to a big mall with a number of restaurants.

Our beautiful wreath for the Memorial Service.

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**

**USS Gambier/VC-10 & USS Kitkun Bay Reunion
2017 in Seattle, WA**

Save the Date October 19-23rd 2017

**Please join the Gambier Bay & Kitkun Bay Associations Commemorate
the 73st 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
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Address Service requested**