

SCUTTLEBUTT

A Quarterly Newsletter

July 2015

Presidents Corner

Hello Gambier Bay Family

Registration is open for the 2015 USS Gambier Bay/USS Kitkun Bay reunion (Norfolk, Virginia - October 21-25, 2015). You can find all the information (schedule of events and registration) inside. Just a reminder, we will have our Board meeting (everyone is invited to attend), and we will also have a membership meeting, which will include the election of officers and governors for 2015-2017. If you are interested in a position, please let me know ASAP and I can forward your name onto our nominating committee members who will then contact you about your interest.

I just wanted to thank everyone who follow us on FACEBOOK – **Ryan Smithson provided our 500th LIKE.** It is amazing how social media has brought so many new survivors, family members, and friends to our FACEBOOK page and our website (www.ussgambierbay.org). Let's keep it going – please let your family and friends know about our FACEBOOK page and to check out our website as we update it regularly with new photos and stories. We are always looking for info to put up on the site – if you have any info or photos you would like to add to our site, please contact me at pk_grond@yahoo.com. **Our site will continue to grow - but only with your submissions!**

We still have available DVDs from our 2014 Taffy III reunion in San Diego. The memorial service was on the USS Midway. If you were unable to attend the reunion this is a great way to see how we honor, remember, and recognize our survivors. Another great DVD is the Life of Duty, produced by the NRA, and it features Norm St Germain and Fred Grabos, USS Gambier Bay survivors. If you would like one or both of the DVDs, please see the enclosed order form.

Second and Third Generation Family Members and Friends – Please help support the Association with your membership. Your membership donation allows you to have a vote at the membership meetings and it helps with the printing and postage of our Scuttlebutt. Lifetime membership is \$100 or you can join on a yearly basis at \$15 a year. Please see our membership application inside. **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 you at the 2015 reunion in Norfolk, Virginia!

Paula LaRocco-Grond
President

Resignation of Board Member Norm Loats



The Board wants to thank and recognize Norm Loats, survivor, for all of his dedication to the USS Gambier Bay/VC-10 Association. After many years of serving in various capacities, Norm resigned as one of our Board members. He has been such a great supporter of our second and third generation coming onto the Board, and he has been a tremendous resource of information for us in our efforts to maintain and grow the Association membership. Norm, and all of our past survivor Board members have built such an amazing organization and it is up to all of us to continue to honor, recognize, and remember all of our husbands, grandfathers, fathers, uncles, brothers, and friends through the USS Gambier Bay/VC-10 Association.

Thank you Norm for all of your dedication and service to the Association

Legal Assistance Needed

The Association is in need of legal assistance to help us recover essential documentation and records for our current files. We are reaching out to our family, members, and friends to see if anyone is able to offer their legal expertise services. Over the last several years we have lost quite a few of our survivors who served as Board members/officers. They held such a wealth of information about the Association and its documentation and records. During the years, with the changing of Board members/officers, and the addition of new second and third generation to our Board, some of our original important documentation/records have not been forwarded on for our current files. The current Board members/officers want to preserve the Association so all future generations can continue to honor, recognize, and remember our survivors. The recovery of our past documentation and records is vital and an important necessary step for us.

Please, if you can help or know someone who can, contact either Marlene Hughes ({520} 326-0747) at mahhome@cox.net or Paula Grond ({562} 972-8177) at pk_grond@yahoo.com for more detailed information on what is needed.

THANK YOU!



George Legath with his quilt made by Quilts of Valor. (*What a happy face*)



Navy Midshipmen preparing to present Quilts to the survivors at the Memorial Service October 25, 2014.



Stack of Quilts at 2014 Memorial Service

SHIPS MERCHANDISE FORM

ALL PRICES INCLUDE SHIPPING COSTS

	QUANTITY	TOTAL COST
Freedom's Cost Lithograph \$75.00	_____	_____
The Men of the USS Gambier Bay Book \$40.00	_____	_____
Taffy III 2014 Memorial Service DVD San Diego, California \$15.00	_____	_____
Tucson 2013 Memorial Service DVD \$10.00	_____	_____
Life of Duty DVD Documentary Featuring Norm St. German/Fred Grabos \$10.00	_____	_____
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	_____	_____

<u>By Special Order</u> The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors \$25.00	_____	_____

Ships Store
USS Gambier Bay/VC-10 Association

Personalized Etched Laser Tile Order Form
Please Make Checks Payable To:
USS Gambier Bay Association

Quantity

Cost

Personalized Laser Etching Tile

\$35

Shipping time is 2 weeks from order

OTHER INSIDE DESIGNS ARE AVAILABLE – PLEASE CONTACT PAULA AT pk_grond@yahoo.com

Example



Wording for Top Line Inside Circle

Wording for Bottom Line Inside Circle

Wording for Bottom **OUTSIDE** of Circle

Inside Etching (**circle preference**)
Destroyer/Tin Can Sailor OR US Flag

TOTAL ORDER AMOUNT

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Contact Phone _____

Email Address _____

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



In Memoriam

Shipmates who have crossed the bar

John Grafton Jones 05/15/1925 - 05/07/2015 AOM 3/c



John Grafton Jones, age 89 of Howell, passed away Thursday evening, May 7, 2015. Born in Washington, D.C. on May 15, 1925, he was the son of John G. Sr. and Estelle (Kessteron) Jones. John retired from the U.S. Navy in 1974 and was a proud WWII veteran. Following his service in the Navy he was employed as a machinist for G.M.'s Detroit Diesel Plant in Redford, retiring in 1983. Beloved husband of the late Barbara (Martin) Jones who preceded him in death in 2000. Loving father of Eileen (John) Jones of Howell. Grandfather of Keith (Tanya) Jones of Howell, Brandon (Misty Paulie) Jones of Howell; Christopher (Meghan) Jones of Howell and great-granddaughter, Malorie. Also survived by his siblings, Estelle Knoy of Royal Oak, Donald (Elaine) Jones of California, Lawrence (Inez) Jones of Detroit, Robert (Nancy) Jones of Livonia and Dolores Martin of Brighton; several nieces and nephews. Visitation Monday, May 11, 2015 from 2 to 6:30 p.m. Funeral services will follow visitation Monday at 6:30 p.m. at MacDonald's Funeral Home, Howell (517-54602800). Memorial contributions are suggested to the Alzheimer's Association.

(Rest in Peace John and we will toll the bell for you at this years memorial service.)

Alfons "Al" Krzemecki 12/4/1921 - 05/12/2015 SF 3/c



ALFONS KRZEMECKI age 93 of Farwell, formerly of Memphis, MI. went to be with Jesus on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 on his oldest daughter's birthday. He had been in the Woodland Hospice Care Facility in Mount Pleasant, MI. a short time. Mr. Krzemecki was born December 4, 1921 in Detroit to the late Francis and Agnieski (Dziek) Krzemecki. He married Mary Jane Rutkofske in St. Philip Neri Catholic Church in Columbus Township on September 4, 1948. Al was a proud veteran of the United States Navy serving during World War II aboard the USS Gambier Bay, USS Intrepid and USS Hendersen. He retired as a welder from U.S Army Automotive Tank Command in Warren in 1976 after thirty-one years service. He was a member of Holy Family Parish in Memphis, the VFW Post in New Baltimore and was an avid golfer. He was a patient teacher, teaching how to follow through on a golf swing to having good work ethics. He taught his children how to care for their cars and their homes and encouraged us all to try things even if we failed the first time, always saying, "that's how you learn." He prided himself in being Mister-Fix-It, fixing everything but a broken heart his wife would say. Deep down we knew he could help fix that too. Even though Al had no formal education, he was educated beyond his years with his life experiences, learning the value of hard work, saving money, and providing for his family day in and day out. He loved his wife, Janie, and you could see it in his eyes when they danced or when they were together on day to day events. He was a loving father and grandpa, caring and helpful, and he adored his children, grandchildren, his great-grandson along with his nieces and nephews. He had a simple, strong faith in the Lord and no one could take that away from him. He had been tested and tried from the loss of his dad at an early age supporting his mother through working at the CCC camps with his twin, Eddie, to joining the Navy and after the attack on his ship, jumping in shark infested waters, remaining there for three days. His heart was broken with the loss of his infant son, Jimmy and he grieved so when he lost his twin brother a few years ago. He remained strong and always said, "It's gonna be alright!". He is survived by his wife Mary Jane, children; Linda (Tim) Barnes of Horton, Tom (Carol) Krzemecki of Harrison, Mary Ellen (Dirk) Brines of Farwell and CarolAnn (Dave) Kraus of Fort Gratiot, sister-in-law, Donna Krzemecki of Clinton Township, grandchildren Sarah (Mike) Pelletier, Karen Krzemecki, Vaughn (Maggie) Brines, Margo Brines, Devin Brines and Jessica Burrows, step-grandchildren; Rachael and Parker Barnes and his great-grandson Andrew Pelletier. He was preceded in death by his infant son, Jimmy Krzemecki, his twin brother, Edward Krzemecki and his sister Mary (the late Alfred) Klebba. A funeral Mass will be on Saturday, May 16, 2015 at 11:00am in Holy Family Parish in Memphis. Reverend Joseph Horn, Pastor will officiate. Burial will be in St. Philip Neri Cemetery in Columbus Township under the auspices of the United States Navy Honor Guard.

(Rest in Peace Alfons, you lived a wonderful life. We will toll a bell for you at this years memorial service.)

In Memoriam continued:

James H. Ball 05/23/1924 - 05/28/2015 S 1/c

James Hezekiah Ball, 91, of New Haven, passed away Thursday, May 28, 2015.

He was born May 23, 1924, in Glenwood, W.Va., the son of the late Jessie Ball and Surilda Edmonds Ball.

Mr. Ball was a [U.S. Navy](#) veteran serving his country in [World War II](#).

He is survived by his wife, Leona Faye Ball; children Beverly (Curt) Hill, of Washington, W.Va., Jeffrey Ball, of Vinton, Ohio, and Steve (Cindy) Ball, of Rising Sun, Ind.; grandchildren Lindsey Ball, Curtis Lee Hill, Jerod Ball, Adam Ball and Jordan Ball; and great-grandson Connor Walker.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sons Larry T. Ball and James R. "Jimmy" Ball; and grandsons Jeremy Ball and Tim Hill.

Private arrangements are under the direction of Anderson Funeral Home in New Haven.



Lou Ann Pistachio 12/10/1946 - 03/25/2015

Lou Ann was the daughter of Carl and Bernice Amundson. Lou Ann brought her father to a number of Gambier Bay Reunions. We became good friends with Lou Ann over the years and will miss seeing her with Carl and his friend, Fran.

Lou Ann is survived by her three children Danette Mestas, Daniel Kirkpatrick and Anthony Pastachio, eight grandchildren, three great grandchildren; her father Carl Amundson; and one one brother, Louis Amundson. She is preceded in death by her husband Gus Pistachio; her children, Bryan Pistachio and Shelley Pistachio; and her mother, Bernice Amundson.

(Rest in Peace Lou Ann-we will miss you at the reunions)

Donald Reynders 08/19/1924 - 04/30/2015



Donald Edward Reynders, passed away the evening of Friday, April 30 after a long illness. Don was born on August 19, 1924 in Lancaster, NY, son of Magdalena and Edward Reynders and raised in Depew, NY. He graduated from St. Mary's High School where he played on the varsity basketball team. At the age of 19, Don enlisted in the [US Navy](#) and served on the escort carrier, the USS Gambier Bay. The crew and ship first saw battle off the coast of Saipan on June, 17, 1944. On October 24, 1944, the ship was sunk in Leyte Gulf. Don and the other survivors were in the water for 42 hours waiting for rescue.

Don met his future wife, Clara at a dance in Buffalo, New York. They were married in San Juan, Puerto Rico on July 31, 1947. Because of his training in meteorology while in the navy, Don was selected to open and manage a weather bureau on St. Croix, V.I. Daughter, Rosanne was born on May 2, 1948 and Marilyn on September 6, 1950. The family returned to the mainland US when Don was assigned to the weather station in Charlotte, NC. A promotion brought him to the weather bureau in Raleigh, NC in 1954. The family joined Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church

and Don became very involved in parish activities eventually becoming a sacristan.

Don retired in 1980 and began swimming in the Raleigh Area Masters swim club, taught introduction to the computer at the Senior Net Center and attended the annual gatherings of the USS Gambier Bay survivors.

Don is survived by his daughter Marilyn Vail of Selma, NC; grandson Albert Jesse Vail IV and fiancé Jamie Crisifulli of Wilmington, NC; brothers James and Hank (Marcia) Reynders, sister Mary Ann and sister-in-law, Luanne Reynders. He was predeceased by his wife, Clara of 61 years, daughter Rosanne, brothers Harold, Eugene, Edward and sisters Arlene and Donna.

Visitation will be at Brown-Wynne Funeral Home on Friday, May 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. and at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church on Saturday, May 9, from 10 to 11 a.m. followed by a funeral mass at 11 a.m. *(Rest in Peace Don. We will toll a bell for you at this years memorial. Always enjoyed our conversations and your photos.)*

Oscar E. Billingsley Bosun/Warrant Officer 05/6/2009

Board of Governors & Officers 2013-2015

1. Paula Grond, President
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Bellflower, CA 90706
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2. Marlene Hughes, Treasurer
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E-Mail: mahhome@cox.net
3. Susan Turner, Secretary
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E-mail: turnersusan31@gmail.com
4. Tom Westbrook, Governor
5958 Lookingglass
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Telephone: 650-248-3987
E-Mail: westpony@yahoo.com
5. Lauren Bagen-Buhl, Governor
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Telephone: 972-489-7281
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E-Mail: bagen@verizon.net
9. Mark Heintl, Governor
217 Eastview Dr
Coldwater, OH 45828-1506
Telephone: 419-678-8168
E-Mail: heintl_22@hotmail.com

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.

Jim Eckert

Barbara Kubichek

Vincent A. Ricciardi

Cindy Shea

Judy Davis

Ernie Johnson

Milton Fogg

Barbara Boggs Schlaff

Donald Elzman

Delia Avenenti

Chris Stammen, our VP, has resigned his position from the Board of Governors.

Chris moved from Governor to Vice President in 2011. His dedication and support to the Association over these last years has helped us to grow the organization.

Thank you Chris for your service, dedication, and support to the the Association.

Chris, you will be missed.



Mail Call



Received from Paula Grond who e-mailed Colleen Craven of Quilts of Valor

4/27/15

Colleen,
Good morning!

Thank you so much for the quilt for Al Zuckerman. I was at his birthday celebration over the weekend with his daughter and some friends where I presented him with his quilt. He was quite surprised because he thought only the survivors in attendance were getting one. I told him that I had requested one for him since he was not able to make the reunion. He was really taken back at the decision to give him one and he was really impressed that it was a full size quilt and a pillow case too. His daughter is going to frame the paperwork and put it up in his room. Everyone was admiring the quilt and his daughter came up to me and thanked me for making her dad feel so special even though he was unable to attend the reunion to be honored, and she wanted me to pass along a really big THANK YOU to Quilts of Valor! It was truly an honor for me to present this to him and I appreciate the decision of QOV to give him one. Enclosed are two pictures of me and Al and the second of Al and his daughter, Helene.

Thank you so much
Paula



(It is always a good feeling to make one of our survivors happy-Thank you Paula for doing this for Al.)

Email sent to Paula Grond from John Jones (son of John Grafton Jones)

5/8/15

John Grafton Jones was a survivor from the sinking of the Gambier Bay. He passed away peacefully on May 7, 2015. A day never went by that he didn't speak of the sinking. John went on to spend 22 years in the Navy.

(Paula sent John an e-mail offering our condolences and letting him know we updated the website and we will toll the bell for him at the reunion. She also sent him our last Scuttlebutt.)

Email sent to Paula Grond from Cindy Ball June 4, 2015

Hello Paula,

Thank you for your help. Losing him was very hard. He just turned 91 the week before. He told me many times his duty on the ship and surviving in the water after the sinking. For many decades he never spoke of his experience before and after and he seemed to speak only to me about this after I came into his life around 1981. Maybe because I was interested and his daughter-in-law. He turned down the purple heart and he spoke about the gentleman he held up for days in the water. He could never recall his name. He deserved a medal for that alone. But as any vet he called it his duty. He had 1 son that served in Korea and another who served and was seriously wounded in Vietnam after running over a mine in his truck. He took awhile but he survived. I have attached his obit. I really miss him. If you need any more info let me know.

Cindy Ball

(Cindy-we have included his obit in this newsletter. We will toll the bell for him at this years Memorial Service. Rest in Peace Jim)

A note received from Norm Loats to Paula Grond 5/8/15

Norm thanked us for the San Diego Taffy 3 Reunion and said it was outstanding. He also said his health is not good and he will not be able to attend any further reunions. He said he appreciates all that we are doing for the survivors with the Scuttlebutt, website, and reunions and we are doing a great job.

(Thanks Norm for the praise it is much appreciated, we in the Gambier Bay Family send you prayers, we wil miss you)

Email from Barb Kubichek: Please send me a GB Hat for my Dad who is turning 90 the week of May 25th.

(Hope he enjoyed his new hat-please tell Albert Happy Birthday from the Gambier Bay family.)

Mail Call continued



Email from Jim Eckert 6/8/2015

Thanks this is for my father-in-law Eugene W. Altenhofen a survivor of the Gambier Bay Leyte Gulf Battle. I have gotten him to talk a little about since I am a Vietnam Veteran. He knows I like to watch old war movies. He now resides in assisted living with his wife. Just thought you might like to know of another one still living.

Thanks

(Jim had sent me an order for items from the Ship's store- glad to know Eugene is still with us, say hello from the Gambier Bay Family)

Email sent to Paula Grond from Lew Williams 5/25/15

Dear Ms. Grond

I only recently found your website dedicated to the USS Gambier Bay. My uncle, Louis Arpin (1924-1944) was one of the sailors who was killed that day. He was a radio operator. After the ship had been struck, he volunteered to go below to help bring up the wounded. Unfortunately, a shell hit the hull very near to him. He was only 19. I am attaching a photograph of him, so that you might add it to the others on the webpage.

(Paula responded to Lew thanking him for the photo and telling him about our Facebook page and newsletter.)

Lew wrote back-

Dear Paula

Thanks for your reply. I wasn't aware the the Gambier Bay had its own association and continuing activities. I had assumed that most, if not all, of the survivors would have passed on by now. My uncle would have been 91 by now had he lived, and the ship sank nine years before I was born.

Its nice to know that there is still a connection with the ship and that era. Thanks for tipping me off about it.

(Paula responded and told Lew about last years reunion and said we would send him a 2015 program if he could not attend this years reunion.)

Lew wrote back-

Hi Paula

Many thanks for your interest. I 'd very much like to have a copy of that program.

I wonder if any of the GB survivors might have known my uncle -

Louis Arpin (1924-1944) - KIA? I know it would be quite the off-chance, but one never knows. My father was in the Army, and I went to one of his reunions of his old battalion (740th). There were still quite a few members left in those days, about 40 years ago, so they all had a lot of catching up to do with each other. All gone now, I believe. My father would be 105 now.

It's always good to hear news of the old Gambier Bay gang.

Though I won't be able to attend, it would be nice to be a "fly on the wall."

All the best

Lew

(Lew-Your uncle was Seaman 1/c- hopefully one of the guys might remember him. Please keep in touch with us)



90th Birthday: Harvey Yarno



Harvey Yarno, of Manteno Veterans' Home, was born May 28, 1925, in Fowler, IN. He moved to Kankakee with his parents, Pete and Edna Yarno. He has four brothers:

William, Richard, Wayne (deceased) and Leroy (Donna) Yarno, of Kankakee. Harvey served in the U.S. Navy in WW II Pacific conflict on the USS Gambier Bay. He was married to Mae E. Weiss (deceased), of Moorhead, MN., for 60 years. Harvey has one son, Larry R. and daughter-in-law Mary b. (St. John) Yarno. He has three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Harvey retired from Kankakee Roper Stove after 21 years. He now enjoys golf, playing cards, visiting relations in Moorhead and Fargo, and being family.

(Thank you to his Larry in sending the photo and the news of Harvey's Birthday- Hope it was wonderful.)

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**

Welcome to the 2015 USS Gambier Bay/Kitkun Bay Reunion Information Pages

When: October 21-25th

Where: Holiday Inn Norfolk Airport, Norfolk, VA

Rate: \$99 & Tax= \$114.86

This rate is good for 3 days before and after reunion.

Call 1-800-465-4329 and advise the reservationist that you are with the USS Gambier Bay/USS Kitkun Bay Reunion so that you are guaranteed the group rate of \$99 & Taxes

Check out Holiday Inn Norfolk Airport online



Amenities at the Holiday Inn

- *Free Parking**
- *24 hour Complimentary Airport Shuttle Service**
- *Free morning newspaper delivered to room**
- *Complimentary Wi-Fi in guest rooms and meeting space**
- *Cable TV, coffee maker, hair-dryer, mini refrigerator, iron/ironing board.**
- *All rooms are non-smoking**
- *The hotel has an indoor pool, fitness center, on site guest self laundry & gift shop**
- * 10% discount at the Fountainside cafe located off lobby which serves breakfast and dinner**
- * A cocktail lounge which offers the restaurant menu with daily food and drink specials.**
- *Complimentary hot breakfast buffet for up to 2 guests per guest room each day.**
- *Also free shuttle service within a 5 mile radius of the hotel.**

The cut off for hotel reservations is October 1, 2015 after that date the block of rooms will be released. Make your reservation early and if you need to cancel it can be done before 10/21/2015.

We can give you a refund for the registration fee but not for the tours, the tours have to be prepaid

Things to Do in Norfolk VA.

Norfolk VA is home to intriguing historical attractions, world-class museums, delicious restaurants and unique retail shops. Visitors will find it easy to reach all that Norfolk VA has to offer; most places are within a short walking distance, car or train ride!

Visitors can learn to sail, kayak, play a round of golf or hike only minutes from the downtown area. Cruise our beautiful harbor on the tall ship American Rover or tour the city by foot, on bike, or light rail.

Families traveling with children will find plenty of options for "kids' fun" in Norfolk VA. Along with a wide variety of water sports, you will find interactive fun both indoors & out at places like the Virginia Zoo, Norfolk Botanical Garden and Nauticus, to name a few! . www.visitnorfolktoday.com

Reunion Itinerary

- Wed - Oct. 21st -** Hospitality room open by 3pm in The Landings room-Check in and Welcome Reception will be from 6pm till 10PM in the Grand Concourse room.
- Thurs - Oct. 22rd -** 9:00 AM- 3:30 PM- Welcome to Norfolk Riding Tour, MacArthur Memorial, Naval Station Norfolk with lunch on base. (see details on tour sheet) Boarding at 8:45am
Dinner on own.
- Friday- Oct. 23rd -** 8:30AM -1:00PM-Military Aviation Museum, Riding Virginia Beach Tour, Old Cape Henry Lighthouse. Lunch on own. (see details on tour sheet) Boarding at 8:15am
1:30pm-3pm - USS Gambier Bay Board of Governor meeting
- Friday- Oct. 23rd-** Banquet 6PM till 11PM in Grand Concourse room.
- Sat - Oct. 24th-** 11:00AM Memorial Service at the Hotel with lunch following the service.
- Sat - Oct 24th -** Business meetings following the Luncheon in afternoon
Dinner on your own
- Sun - Oct. 25th -** Check out

The Hospitality Room will be open every day from 8am to 11pm during the reunion except for the banquet, memorial service and luncheon.

Reunion Details

1. Be sure to attend the reception on the evening of the 21st. A recognition of each ship is planned and maybe a waving of hats by the survivors.
2. Thursday of the 22rd is open to enjoy the hospitality room or take the Norfolk Riding tour, with visiting the MacArthur Museum, Naval Station Norfolk with lunch on the base.
3. Friday, the 23rd is open to enjoy the hospitality room or take the tour to see the Military Aviation Museum, with a riding Virginia Beach Tour & the Old Cape Henry Lighthouse

On this evening the banquet will take place. A great meal is being planned, there will be a raffle, and then some outstanding musical entertainment.

4. Saturday, the 24th October, the memorial service is at the hotel.
Saturday after the memorial service, we have planned one final luncheon gathering.
Dinner that night is on your own.

Any questions, comments please contact Marlene Hughes. (520-326-0747 or mahome@cox.net). Please get your registrations in as early as possible by 9/1/2015.

USS Gambier Bay/Kitkun Bay 2015 Reunion Registration Form

Please Print

Name: _____

Spouse or Guest (s) Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State/Zip _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

Ship Represented: _____ Survivor _____ Associate _____ Special Needs: _____

Please indicate with an * next to the name if this is the persons first reunion. Use additional paper if necessary.

Make checks payable to: USS Gambier Bay Assoc.

Event	Day	Cost per person	# Attending	Total
Registration Fee by 8/31/2015		\$75		\$
Registration Fee by 9/20/2015		\$80		\$
Registration Fee after 9/20 - 9/30/15		\$85		\$
Norfolk City Riding Tour w/lunch send in by 9/8/15	Thurs- 10/22	\$57		\$
Tour to Military Aviation Museum Lunch on ovm send in by 9/8/15	Fri - 10/23	\$49		\$
Please see tour sheet on details				

Registration fee includes Dinner Banquet, entertainment, Luncheon, welcome reception and printing of Memorial Service programs.

Grand Total: \$ _____

Banquet Entree Choices	Qty. & name
Grilled Salmon	
Roast of Sirloin of Beef	
All entrees include salad, starch, veggie, dessert & beverage	

Luceon Entree Choices	Qty & name
Chicken Marsala	
Pork Loin Chop	
All entrees include salad, starch, veggie, dessert & beverage	

Please mail this form with payment to:

USS Gambier Bay/Vc-10 Assoc.

c/o Marlene Hughes
2228 E Greenlee Rd
Tucson, AZ 85719-2012

Phone: 520-326-0747

Email: mahhome@cox.net

**Any questions regarding the reunion call me.
Cut off date for registration is 9/30/15 and
hotel is 10/1/2015**

Tour Information

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2015: 9:00AM – 3:30 PM

* Board the motor coach with your guide to enjoy a narrated Welcome to Norfolk Riding Tour through the maritime seaport's beautiful historic district and restored areas. Learn about Norfolk's colorful 335 year history as you travel through the most popular areas of the city. Your tour guide will point out many attractions in downtown including St. Paul's Church and Town Point Park.

Drive through the cobblestone streets of the historic Freemason District to view homes dating back to the 1800's. Drive along The Hague to view the stately homes along the water and past the Chrysler Museum of Art, home to some of the world's most recognizable paintings, glass and other works of art.

* Arrive at MacArthur Memorial for a glimpse into our country's history. View the outstanding collection of artifacts, documents, photographs and memorabilia housed in Norfolk's historic city hall which trace the life and times of five-star General Douglas MacArthur and see the 25 minute film which chronicles General MacArthur's life. The General and Mrs. MacArthur are entombed in the rotunda of the memorial. Nine separate galleries arranged in two levels circle the rotunda and tell the story of General MacArthur and the millions of American men and women who served in the United States Armed Forces from the Civil War through the Korean War. A gift shop with unique memorabilia is located on the premises.

* **Enjoy a guided, behind the scenes program created just for our group.**

* Visit Naval Station Norfolk, the largest naval installation in the world. Home port to 78 ships, ranging in size from aircraft carriers to submarines, 26 aircraft squadrons comprised of 133 aircraft and headquarters of the Atlantic Fleet, this naval complex occupies over 8,000 acres of land and is home to more than 100,000 military personnel. The narrated windshield tour is led by active duty personnel who will take you past the 14 piers, through the Naval Air Station, and the historic homes built for the 1907 Jamestown Exposition on "Admiral's Row" which now house the flag officers.

* Lunch will be included for your group at one of the clubs on base.

Package Price: \$57.00 per person, inclusive. LUNCH INCLUDED.

* **PLEASE NOTE:** Any guests requiring special arrangements (dietary, physically disabled) must make us aware of their needs in advance, otherwise, we will not be able to guarantee that they will be accommodated. Those guests with physical disabilities should have someone traveling with them to assist physically. Phillips DMC staff and motor coach drivers cannot accept responsibility for lifting guests in and out of coaches.

* **PLEASE NOTE:** All passengers visiting any military installation MUST have a picture ID (driver's license, military ID, passport), and no bags other than pocketbooks or camera cases will be allowed on base. Please ask your guests not to bring any pocket knives, scissors, or nail files with them on tour. All persons are subject to personal search.

* Due to heightened security measures at all military installations, Phillips DMC must have a list of names with city and state of residence of those going on the tour three weeks prior to tour date

Last minute participants will be accommodated on a space-available basis only, and ticket prices on site will be an additional \$3.00 per person.

All participants who do not show for their tour will not be refunded their money. This price is based on a minimum of 35 people per tour.



Tour Information continued

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2015, 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM

• Board the motor coach with your tour guide and visit Virginia Beach's newest attraction, the Military Aviation Museum, located at the former Virginia Beach Airport, this museum is home to one of the largest private collections of World War II and Korean War era fighters, bombers, trainers and seaplanes in the world. Many aircraft have been fully restored to their World War II condition and are used for flight demonstration, movie production or commercials.

* Enjoy a guided tour of the galleries and shopping in the gift shop which is stocked with all things flight related.

* Next, enjoy a Riding Virginia Beach Tour, with a stop at the historic Cape Henry Lighthouse (small fee to climb on own if desired) and free time on the beautiful Virginia Beach Boardwalk for lunch and shopping on your own.

Package Price: \$49.00 per person, inclusive.

Last minute participants will be accommodated on a space-available basis only, and ticket prices on site will be an additional \$3.00 per person.

All participants who do not show for their tour will not be refunded their money. This price is based on a minimum of 35 people per tour.



Cape Henry Lighthouses



Military Aviation Museum

The Spirit of Norfolk

See incredible views of the Norfolk harbor and the Navy's Atlantic Fleet aboard the Spirit of Norfolk. Enjoy delicious new menus and specialty drinks. Then, dance to DJ entertainment or relax on the new rooftop lounge. It all adds up to the perfect Norfolk experience. Cruising year-round from downtown Norfolk, *Spirit* offers lunch, brunch, dinner, cocktail, moonlit cruises and more.



They offer different cruises during the week and weekends. Starting at \$44.90 to \$67.90. Check out their website if this is something you would like to do while you are in Norfolk.

www.spiritofnorfolk.com

**USS Gambier/VC-10 & USS Kitkun Bay Reunion
2015 in Norfolk, VA**

Save the Date Oct 21-25th 2015

**Please join the Gambier Bay & Kitkun bay Associations Commemorate
the 71st 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.**



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