

SCUTTLEBUTT

A Quarterly Newsletter

December 2018



We had 9 survivors join us this year from 3 Taffy 3 ships. From left to right is Carl Amundson (GB), Al White (KB), Jack Bacastow (KB), Don Wilson (KB), George Feliz (GB), Dean Moel (GB), John Henry (FB), and Norm St Germain (GB), missing was Eugene Jesch (FB).

We had two survivors that were not able to make it at the last minute-Frank Murphy (FB) and Carl Jones (GB).

This reunion was fun all around it was so nice to catch up with our Gambier Bay family plus the other Taffy 3 ships. It should be a blast next year!

This is a shout out to anyone who remembers Mike Towstik- he calls me every week and wants to tell his buddies and shipmates a loud hello and hope everyone is doing great. He will turn 97 years young on January 1, 2019.

President's Corner

Hello Gambier Bay Family!

What a great time we had in San Antonio at our 2018 Taffy 3 Reunion. We reconnected with our survivors, friends, and family. This year we had quite a few family members attend for the first time and all said they look forward to returning for the 75th Reunion. As you know, traveling is not an easy task anymore and I just want to relay **A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ACCOMPANIED SURVIVORS TO THE REUNION**. We are so grateful to our family and friends who bring survivors to the reunions.

Our excursion to Fredericksburg to visit the National Museum of the Pacific War, Home of the Admiral Nimitz Museum, which had undergone a huge expansion since we were last in San Antonio in 2007, was a huge success. As our survivors were touring the museum and when we came to the Taffy 3 exhibit - - their stories started to come out. It was amazing to see other patrons of the museum just stop and listen and ask – were you there!

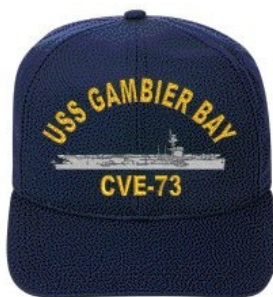
I wanted to share a couple important developments that your Board of Directors discussed at our meeting, first: **the 2019 “75th Anniversary of the Battle off Samar” Taffy 3 Reunion, will be the last reunion that the USS Gambier Bay will host. We are hoping one of the other ships will continue with reunions. The date for the 2019 reunion is October 23-28, 2019, in San Diego and it will be at the same hotel as our 2014 reunion – Holiday Bay Bayside Inn. Capacity will be limited, so once the information is released in our next Scuttlebutt (scheduled for March 2019), please do not hesitate in turning in your registration and securing your hotel room,** and second, it was again discussed to streamline the way we send out our Scuttlebutt publication. It is a major expense for the Association to use the US Post Office to mail them out quarterly, and with so many of us having email we hope to **“Go Greener”** and discontinue mailing out as many as we can and have as many as we can receive their Scuttlebutt publication via email. This benefits both you and the Association in many ways, you receive your Scuttlebutt publication much quicker than if we were to snail mail it, you can organize/file electronically and refer back to previous issues easily, email copies come in color, and the most important is we are saving the Association a major expense. **PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL STILL OFFER THE US MAIL OPTION TO OUR SURVIVORS AND WIDOWS AND THOSE FAMILIES WHO DO NOT HAVE AN EMAIL.** If you are 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 mahome@cox.net so she can add you to our the distribution list.

Our website is growing and growing! Thank you to everyone who have contributed photos and stories for our website and for posting to our Facebook page. As you know, it is up to us, as second and third generation family members, and friends to continue to remember, honor, and recognize our husbands, fathers, sons, grandfathers, uncles, and friends. Our Facebook page is a great way to find out what is going on with the Gambier Bay Family and to inform/remind everyone to continue to check out our website. Social media has been a way for us to all stay connected. If you have any information, stories or photos you would like to share for the website, please email them to me in a jpg format at pk_grond@yahoo.com.

We have included a ship store merchandise order form. A few new items have been added – check out the form and get your merchandise before it sells out. We have a newly designed coffee mug and remember limited quantities of our Freedom's Cost lithograph (once we sell out of the lithographs they will no longer be available), the following DVDs: The 2014 “70th Battle off Samar” Taffy 3 2014 memorial service aboard the USS Midway, the oral histories of our sailors who attended the 2014 reunion, and NRA Life of Duty, featuring Fred Grabos and Norm St. Germain. We appreciate and thank everyone for continuing to support the Association. Our mission is to continue to honor, recognize, remember, and keep the memory alive of all who served on the USS Gambier Bay/ VC-10.

I look forward to seeing everyone in San Diego, California for the **2019 “75th Anniversary of the Battle off Samar” Taffy 3 Reunion** hosted by the USS Gambier Bay.

Paula Grond
President



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 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 - \$45.00
Shipping time is 2 weeks from order

I Love the Men of the Gambier Bay Button Pin
\$3.00

USS Gambier Bay NEW Coffee Mug
\$12.00

USS Gambier Bay Refrigerator Magnet
4.5 x 5.5 / \$3.00

Framed USS Gambier Bay 39 cent Stamp
\$5.00

Framed Taffy 3 San Diego Memorial
\$5.00

TOTALS

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 pk_grond@yahoo.com for questions/orders)

Air Craft Carrier

Lone Sailor

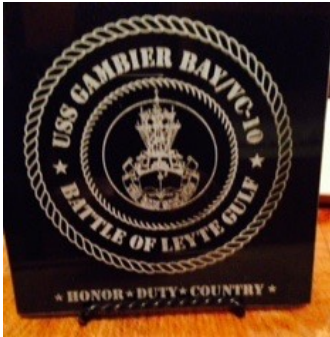
US Flag

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

November 2018



In Memoriam

Shipmates who have crossed the Bar



Kenneth Leverton- January 6, 1922- June 9, 2018 S 1/c

Kenneth Leverton, 96, of Marion, died at 4:40 a.m. on Saturday, June 9, 2018 at Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Born in Grant County on January 6, 1922 to Cordie and Anna (Wishart) Leverton, Kenneth was a lifelong resident of Marion. He graduated from Marion High School in 1940 and served in the Navy during WWII, on the USS Gambier Bay. He retired from Bell Fibre after 37 years of service. He enjoyed traveling, reading, and watching the Chicago Cubs, whom he followed since 1938. He also enjoyed local HS and college, sports. Kenneth's giving spirit was shared by all through his Xmas gifts and special birthday cards. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Bill (Cheryl) Leverton; granddaughters, Kristen Leverton, Laura (Brent) Smith, and Anne Marie (Jeff) Moser; great-grandchildren, Travis, Alaina, Tess, Gavin, Garrett, and Isaac, and many friends. preceding him in death were his parents; sister, Margarette Semans; and his wife, Majorie, in 1970.

A graveside service for Kenneth will take place at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 13, 2018, at Estates of Serenity, 1101 S. Lincoln Blvd., Marion, IN. Dr. Paul and Dr. Cheryl Thomas will be officiating. Arrangements are entrusted to Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral Service, North Chapel, 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN.

At the family's request, memorial contributions may be made to Visiting Nurse and Hospice Home, 5910 Homestead Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46814 or Fairmount American Legion Post 313, 522 E. Eighth St., Fairmount, IN 46928.

(May you rest in peace-you lived a long and wonderful life- we tolled the bell for you in San Antonio)



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2017-2019**

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11. Norm St. Germain, Governor
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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.

*Susan Moore
Ken & Lois McClintock
Tom Westbrook
June & Tino Patti
Lucille Gutzwiler
Libby Moel
Robin Eaton
Fran Carlsen
Beverly Caparco
Vicki Brown
Ellen Carter
Mark & Sandy Heint
Crystal Moel
Jeri Anderson
Lisa Zink
Pamela Allen
Tom Hulina
Dan Mitchell
Kim Bird
Betty Patterson
Nancy Ring
T. L. Giannone
Thomas Tompkins*



Mail Call

On our website dated 8/19/2018

Hello:

Thank you for having this website. My mother and I were talking today About her brother Harvey Jarrell (junior) who gave his life that day in October, 1944. Mom was only 9 years old at the time. Her brother and nephew who had the most knowledge about the battle have passed on. She would like to know much more about the fateful battle that took her brother at such a very young age. She is not on a ecomputer but reads avidly. Can you suggest a book that gives the most accurate account of the battle that I could get for her?

Thank you

Kimberly Bird. *(Kimberly, we are so glad you found our website! We are dedicated to continuing to honor and remember all who served on the USS Gambier Bay/VC-10. We also have a Facebook page. Please check out the ship store page where you will find the book The Men of the Gambier Bay book and another great book is about the the Battle off Samar (The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors by James D. Hornfischer which you can get on Amazon. Please keep in touch or if you have any questions or want more info-you can e-mail me (Paula) at pk_grond@yahoo.com) Kimberly ordered the book and is on our e-mail list.*

9/5/2018 on our Facebook page

My father Marshall L. Mitchell was a Yeomen on the USS Gambier Bay at the time of its sinking. He attached an account of the event in his fathers own words at the time.

(Paula was able to put it up on our website with his Dads picture and Dan bought some coffee mugs from the ship's store.- Welcome to the Gambier Bay family Dan)

10/16/2018 on our Facebook page

Herman Privette, 94, could not make it to the USS Gambier Bay reunion, but made it to the Pancake Breakfast served on the WWII Red Oak Victory Ship in Richmond, California!

Betsy Privette. *(you are looking great Herman and maybe you can come to next years reunion in San Diego)*



Mail call continued

10/18/2018 on our Facebook page



Does anyone remember Robert Knight SK 2/c who was KIA while on board the the USS Gambier Bay? He was my uncle.
Bob Devine. (*Bob-one of our survivors Norm Loats may have known him because he was a storekeeper as well but unfortunately Norm crossed the bar in February of 2017. Paula added your uncle's picture to our website-welcome to the Gambier Bay family.*)

E-mail sent to Paula on 9/14/2018



Dear Paula,

It was great talking to you the other day and I look forward to the newsletter you mail out each quarter. Per your request I am sending you this material about what my wife, Nancy, and I are presenting doing. As you can see, even at my age, 93, we are still very much involved in the music and entertainment business. We wish that we could join you and the "Old Shipmates" at the October reunion but we will be there in spirit.

Thank you again for all you are doing to keep our organization together. Attached is a picture of my grandson, Zachary and I at the 2018 Memoiral Day Parade in our town of Demarest, NJ. I was honored to be chosen Grand Marshall and also played Taps during the ceremony.

Sincerely,
Ray Di Pietro

(*What a great picture of you and your grandson. Glad to see you are still playing your horn.*)

Received 11/26/2018

Happy Holidays,

I wanted to thank you for all the years of sending me the Scuttlebutt. This is very late, I know, to cover the cost. I'd like to get the newsletter by e-mail from now on, if you would.

The lady that had a husband on the Gambier Bay moved to WA years ago, but she never stayed in touch. (His name was Billie (Mac) Durham)

The guy that was TDY on the ship at the time of the Battle has since passed away. I never got all the details cause it would upset him a lot to talk about it. He was a photographer to cover the landings. He and his pilot even dropped small bombs from the cockpit and when the ships supply ran out they dropped coke bottles (which sound just like a bomb to the Japs). He ended up landing on a muddy field when they were told not to come back to the carrier. His name was OLIVER BUTLER- Army Thanks Tom Tompkins (*Thank you Tom for your donation of \$100 towards getting our newsletter-love the story and you will receive this one by e-mail.*)

Mail Call Continued

E-mail sent from Pat Jones on 10/26/18

Hi Paula and Marlene.

Hope you've have a day or two of much needed rest and that you arrived home safe and sound. It was a wonderful reunion and I'm so thankful I went..

I will definitely be there next year.

When I returned to my dad's assisted living home, I gave him the quilt. He couldn't believe it was for him. He said he was dumbfounded and wondered why you would do that for him. I had him sit down and laid it across him to get his picture. He said it was too nice to use and of course I agreed so I sewed a pocket along the back and put it on a rod. He was thrilled when I hung it over his bed. He had several of his close friends come to see it. You certainly made him very happy and so very proud.

I have also included a picture of the scale model of the USS Gambier Bay his nephew had made for him. He ordered it from the Philippines and it took six months to make. The detail is incredible and it measures 24 inches. Along with pictures of my mom, these are the things he treasures most.

If I can help in any way with next years reunion please let me know. Thank you again for all you do.

Best Wishes, (*Carl we are glad you love your quilt and you are looking good for 96 years young, enjoy!*
Pat Jones. *We wished we could have met you in San Antonio, but we got to meet Pat)*



Here is Carl with his quilt and the quilt above his bed and the model of the USS Gambier Bay.

San Antonio Photos

The other GB Plaque at the museum



Norm St Germain checking out our GB Plaque



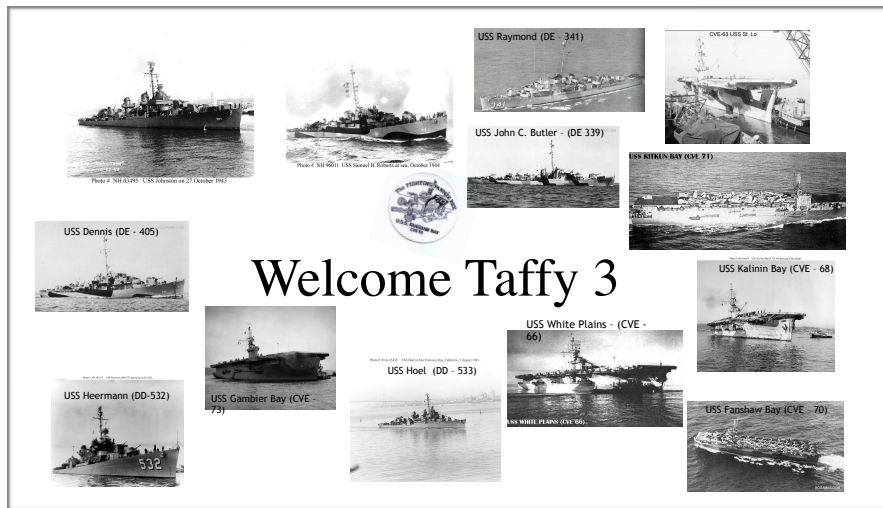
Below is Pat Jones talking about her Dad Carl Jones who couldn't make it to the Reunion.



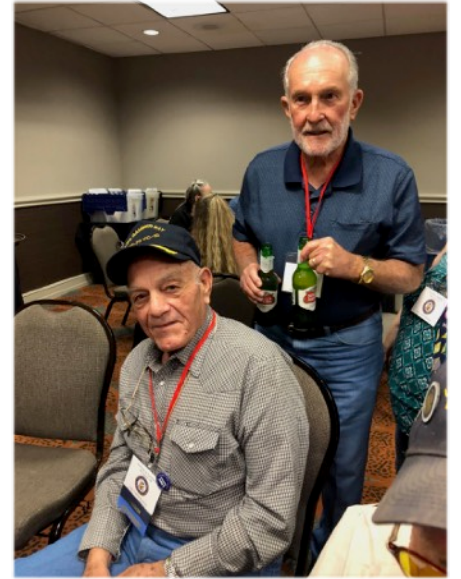
Our Taffy 3 Survivors having lunch at the museum: Sitting left to right are Don Wilson, Jack Bacastow, Al White, Norm St Germain & John Henry



San Antonio Reunion Photos



Above: Power point presentation at Pacific War Museum. All 13 ships.



Bob Shrieve giving Norm is famous Stella Artois.



Having a good time is Andy Ramirez, Dean Moel, Norm St Germain, George Feliz, George's grandson & great grandson, Gabe & Kelan

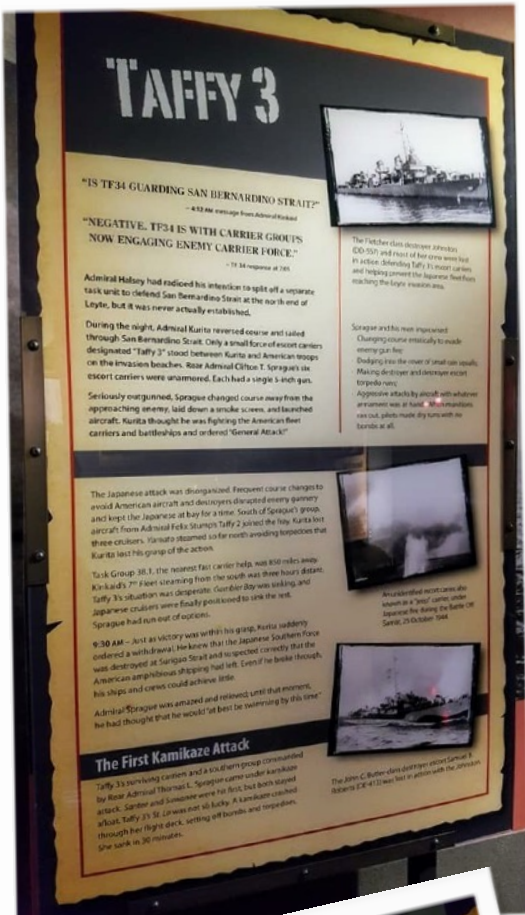
Our two singers at the memorial service

Isabella Diaz & Andre Orozco-Nube



San Antonio photos

Information board at the museum about Taffy 3



The first night of our hospitality room was a little small but we moved to a much larger space



Our raffle items at the Banquet.



This part of the museum showed the battle and Dean Moel was the star explaining to others about the battle and his experience. People who were visiting were in awe!

Reunion Photos



Dean Moel with his daughters Linda & Patti

Dean and two of his
granddaughters at the Pacific
War Museum.



Our Color Guard from John Marshall
HS Navy JROTC Color Guard



Here is the banner which was hung outside our Hospitality room!



The picture was put on our message page on Facebook by family.

This is survivor and pilot Darrell Bennett with two of his great grandchildren. *(What a great picture Darrell, hope to see you in San Diego in October 2019.)*

Editors comments:

Our next Reunion will be in San Diego next October.

Save these dates- October 23-28th 2019

Holiday Inn Bayside

Rate-\$129 plus tax. (rates good 3 days before and after)

Free Shuttle to & from Airport and within two miles of the hotel.

We will have a reception on Thursday night, Memorial Service on Friday morning with a luncheon following, our banquet on Saturday night and on Sunday a farewell breakfast at the hotel. **See you in October 2019.**

Please send in your dues for the year it helps with the cost of sending out the Scuttlebutt, this issue alone usually costs \$650 because it is in color.

Thinking of you and hoping that you all will be blessed with good health, happiness and special memories this Christmas and in the coming year. Till next time.

Marlene

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**

Taffy 3 Reunion

Please join the Gambier Bay on the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Leyte Gulf

**Bring your children, grandchildren, 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**