

April
2015

THE BLACKBIRD

USS POWER DD-839 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

USS POWER WEB SITE
www.usspowerdd839.org

Newsletter Founder Editor
PETER DEPIETRO
2008 - 2013

SHIPS MOTTO
THE FLEET'S FINEST



PRESIDENTS NOTES:

I would like to thank all our members that attended the last reunion in Jacksonville, FL for electing me President. I hope you all had a good time at the reunion, I know my wife and I did. Our next reunion will be in Mobile, AL from 12 to 16 May 2015. The tours should be great. I am looking forward to going to the Pensacola National Naval Museum and watching the Blue Angels practice. The #2 tour is to the USS ALABAMA Battleship Park and city tour. Some sad news, we lost one of our charter members Lou House. Lou passed away January 18, 2015, a memorial service was held February 2, 2015 in Oviedo, FL. He will be greatly missed by all. Now for some good news, we have a new webmaster for our website, he is Brian Spaulding who served on the USS POWER from Sep 1958 to Aug 1961. Check out the revised web site at www.usspowerdd839.org. Thank you Brian for getting the website up and running.

“DON'T FORGET TO PAY YOUR DUES” Please be on the lookout for new members, you never know where you might meet them.

Carl P. Burnham, President
USS POWER (DD 839) Association
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USS POWER DD 839 OFFICERS		STAFF:	
President	Carl Burnham	Master-At-Arms	Eric Barnes
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Secretary	Bob Pulaski	Chaplain	Dewey Ray
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Chairman	John S. Pinto	Newsletter Publisher	John Pinto

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SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT NOTES:

Greetings USS Power Shipmates and Powerful Ladies.....

Here are a few dates to remember! May 15th. - Peace Officer's Memorial Day May 16th. -Armed Forces Day on June 14th. - Flag Day July 27th. - Korean War Veteran's Armistice Day We did it again! Navy Midshipmen beat Army Black Knights in the annual football game that was held in December 2014. I once again had the privilege and honor to participate and be in the color guard for Wreaths Across America at the Abraham Lincoln Cemetery in Elwood, IL. It is a very moving tribute to all the servicemen and servicewomen who are buried at the National Cemetery. Hopefully the worst of winter is over; it has been very hard for many people fortunately for Mary Lou and I we have been in sunny Florida for the last 3 months. But for all my family and friends back home and anyone else who had to endure with this winter I sympathize for them. Looking forward to seeing everyone again at the Mobile, AL. reunion and hopefully a few new faces.

Sr. Vice President, Ed Chartrand

JURIOR VICE PRESIDENT NOTES:

Greetings Shipmates,

As of April 1 your newest VP will be broadcasting from South Carolina. Julia and I decided to return "home". There are a number of reasons for this move but the prominent the reason, by far, is that we simply miss the BBQ and grits. We are looking forward to this next, new adventure.

On a more somber note, we, as we were all of us, greatly saddened to learn of our shipmate Lou House, so passing. He was a fine leader and a witty and jolly character as well. He will be missed. Lou was supposed to have a memorial a few weeks ago in Oviedo. Unfortunately, unbeknownst to all it was cancelled. We did meet Mike Farrens and Dan and Pat Parent there, and in a manner of speaking we did pay our respects for all from the USS Power.

Our Mobile reunion will be soon upon us and it is hoped that we will have a great turnout and a grand time. We hope that everyone is in good health and we wish that everyone will have a good trip to Mobile.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

John Goricki



FROM THE DESK OF THE
SECRETARY ROBERT PULASKI

Shipmates:

May Reunion is slowly approaching and we should have a nice turnout but– we still have room for more so as Assn. Recruiters we need all of you to keep working to get more attendees and also new members. Our members are our strength– and we need to continue to build !

Looking Forward To Seeing you all in May

Safe Trip to All
Bob Pulaski
Secty.



USS POWER LADIES AUXILIARY

President : Mary Lou Chartrand

Secretary : Julia Gorick

USS POWERFUL LADIES.....

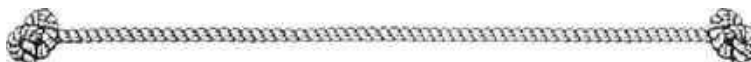
Those who received the Tupperware gift cards, have you used them yet? Go to tupperware.com or call 1 800 Tupperware to place an order. The gift card does have an expiration date so please check yours. Our ladies meeting will be held the same day and time as the men's meeting. Our "Welcome Aboard" dinner has a Halloween theme, so have you got your costume ready yet? It can be as elaborate as you want or as simple as wearing a hat. At our last night in Mobile at our dinner dance could you make or buy a door prize? Have you put together your photo album yet? Please do and bring it to the reunion to share with your shipmates and go down memory lane. No matter what year you have please bring yours as we are flying and can only bring the last album. Please bring a photo of your sailor in uniform so we can get them up on the "Wall of Honor" A 5 X 7 works best but any size will do. We will place the photo on cardstock and put the photo up every year in the Hospitality Room. If you cannot come to the Mobile, AL. reunion please mail the photo to me with your name, rank and years you were in the Navy. Have you thanked a Veteran or Servicemen today? Hope to see new faces as well as old friends at the reunion. Remember: Recycle, Reuse and Reduce

Chairman, Mary Lou Chartrand

Any questions call 815 744-3978 or mail photo to 606 Edgebrook Drive, Shorewood, IL. 60404



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Welcome Shipmates:

It has been a gruesome year, weather all over the country has had cities at a stand still with snow ice and heavy rain. Even down here in Florida it has been 15 degrees lower in temperature with cloudy and windy day's. But on a good note the weather is warming up and Easter is getting closer. The flowers are in bloom and the snow in New York is melting. The temperatures are warming up from the frigid weather they have been having. As you know we have lost one of our members Lou House who was my friend, my mentor, and he was an asset to the Association, he will be missed by all. I also just learned from Jim Brocklebank that his brother in law Jerry Bradley who has been to many reunions with us, has passed away. My condolences to Jim and his Sister and the Bradley family. Our reunion is coming up on us just around the corner May 12 -16, 2015 -Mobile, Al. The cutoff date to book your rooms is April 20, 2015 After that date it will be on availability, so call now. Direct # 251-344-7446 and tell them you are with the USS POWER group. If you have any problem e-mail or call me. Check in time is 3:00pm. When you check in make sure you ask for your food vouchers. The **Hospitality room 209 2nd floor** will be open at noon Tuesday when you check in come up and get your packet and name tag. The theme for our Welcome Aboard is **Halloween** so get your dress up ready. We will be having a reception at 5:00pm of Wine*Cheese & Fruit before the Welcome Aboard so don't miss it. The Executive Board Members will have their meeting at 2:00pm in the Board room to discuss Association business. As you know for 2016 reunion the membership voted on Washington DC. Area and we do have a Hotel location and date for you. It will be at the Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport in Herndon, VA. which is about 40 minutes to Downtown Washington DC. We will be setting up tours so if you have any info you want to share with us we would appreciate it. The dates are June 9-13, 2016 (check out .on June 13th.) Thursday thru Monday for 4- nights. You can come in a day earlier if you wish we are holding 10 rooms. I will give you more info at the membership meeting. I have been to a reunion work shop with YMRC seminar, which gets reunion planners and a group of exhibitors from other hotels across different States to try and get you to go to their state and stay at their Hotels, along with discussing contracts and setting up a reunion. I have been doing this for about 16 years and you can always learn something new. This work shop was held in **Columbus GA**. At a host Hotel which happened to be a Holiday Inn. Columbus Georgia wants our business and the CVB is giving away \$500 if we sign at a hotel within 6 months, I am looking at a Double Tree and have given them our proposal for 2017 and it looks very good with low room rates including breakfast. I was also very impressed with the Ranger program at Fort Benning Airborne & Ranger school. I promise you that you will be surprised. We can use the money to raffle off \$500 prizes if you vote to go to Columbus, GA. For 2017. I highly recommend it and will get the best room rate. When I first was going to the seminar I said what is in Columbus, Ga. And I was surprised to see how much there is to do of interest to all. Check it out on line, most of the tour are free and you can eat at the mess hall for \$5.55 p.p. you can't beat that with a stick. Any questions will be discussed at the membership meeting.

Safe Trip To Reunion

John Pinto
352-527-2352
jpinto839@gmail.com

19 Men

Stories by Dan Tagtmeyer Aboard the USS POWER DD 839 in Early 1960's

ACROSS the EQUATOR

Pollywog to Shellback at Longitude 73 degrees 30 minutes East

Latitude 00 degrees 00 minutes.

3 - 4 December 1962

"This evening I received a summons to appear before the Royal Court charged with three offences. Everyone got one. Tomorrow I must appear before the Royal Court and be tried.

My offenses are:

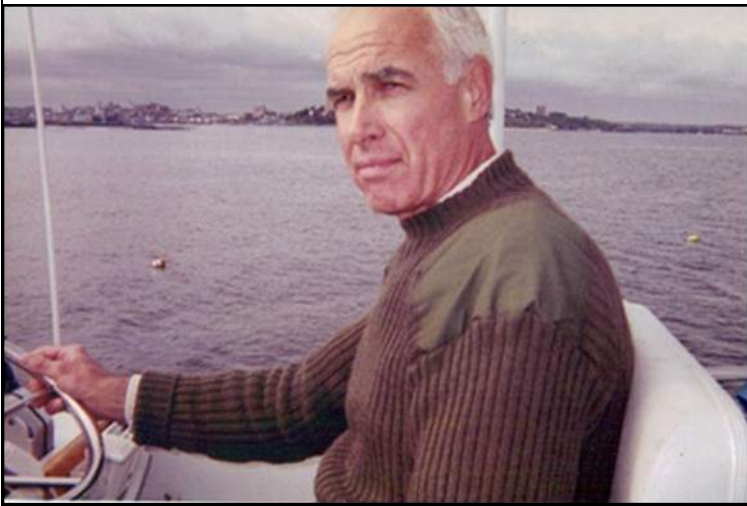
1. Impersonating a Petty Officer,
2. Being of the opinion the whole thing is kids stuff,
3. Taking an insufficient amount of showers.

Croker GM3 is my accuser and issued my summons. Naturally everyone will be found guilty as charged. It might prove to be most interesting, even if somewhat painful, becoming a **Shellback**.

5 December 1962

The initiation we got yesterday into the Realm of King Neptune was really something! The afternoon was devoted to the initiation, the fore-noon to humiliating all of us Pollywogs by the Shellbacks. The initiation was our punishment for the "crimes" listed on our summons; first, you come before the Royal Sheriff who started you on your way with a crack on the ass. But it was the instrument used. That made it so, shall we say; delightful. He used a four foot section of standard Navy firehouse. The swat you received was no love pat believes me? We were all wearing only our swim trunks for this event. Next you passed a guy who wet you down well with a firehouse. Then you came to the gauntlet. Just outside the mid-ships hatch on the Port side was a line of ten to fourteen Shellbacks with the same type of truncheon the Royal Sheriff used. Only now you're wet and on either side of you this line had these salt water soaked weapons. They had a mat laid out and you passed, one-by-one, on all fours, **ass** high in the air through the gauntlet. Needless I moved faster- than I ever imagined I could through that line. It wasn't my own ability that moved me. It was the force of the swats that propelled me. By this time anyone not being able to show welts on his backside was given the privilege of going through again. Next you came to the Royal Baby whose belly you must kiss. It wasn't just a kiss he grabbed your head and smashed it into the mess smeared on it. This stuff was horrible. I won't say anymore about it because to recall the taste and smell makes me want to vomit. Oh, it was rank. Then came the Royal Doctor who applied a throat massage of hot sauce and chili peppers. Immediately thereafter you got into the Royal Barber chair. Just let your imagination go wild as to what my dome looks like with a path cut straight through the middle. Next came the garbage chute. A fantail garbage chute filled with garbage which is big enough for a man to crawl through. Only there was an added attraction. Shellbacks with truncheons administered blows as you crawled through this canvas tunnel. Last Was the Royal Bath, saltwater of course, about three feet deep. Here you were dunked three to six times depending on the serious-ness of your "crimes as a pollywog. After that you were now a" **Shellback**. "In addition to this written account of 52 years ago I recall that less than forty crew members were Shellbacks who provided this program. The Royal Baby was Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class Smith. Lt. Kries got the worst beating in the gauntlet as he slipped going through it and had to right himself to go on. To this day I cherish more than most of my possessions my Shellback certificate and the wallet sized card that declared me a Shellback.

Dan Tagtmeyer GM3



I'm originally from Augusta, ME. While in high school, I enlisted in the USNR shortly after my 17th birthday in February 1956. After high school, I enlisted Sept 1957 in the regular Navy. Then, FT school in Bainbridge, MD. Thereafter, I reported to *Power* in September 1958. I served in *Power* three years working on the 3" Gun Fire Control System and, after entering FRAM in Charleston, I worked for a while on the 5" Gun Fire Control System before volunteering for submarine duty. After sub school I reported to the *USS Sarda* SS-488, a Tench class submarine serving as a school boat for sub school students. Polaris Missile training was next at Dam Neck, VA. In Nov 1962 I reported to new construction in the pre-comm crew of *Andrew Jackson* SSBN-619 at Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, CA. My only child, David, was born just

before I went on my one and only patrol in the *Jackson Gold* crew. While in *Jackson*, I was converted from FT to MT and while at POMFLANT, I made E-6. In January 1965, I reported to shore duty at the Polaris Missile Facility Atlantic (POMFLANT) at Dam Neck, VA. There I managed to stretch a one year tour into two years. My next boat was the *USS Abraham Lincoln* SSBN-602 Blue crew out of Groton, CT. I made six patrols in *Lincoln* and donned my E-7 hat in Mar 1969. After *Lincoln*, I went to instructor school in Norfolk, VA and thence to duty as Chief Instructor of the 598/608 Class FBM Submarine Polaris/Poseidon Missile School at Dam Neck. Thereafter, I applied for ADCOP and went to Tidewater Community College where I picked up two Associates Degrees: one in Education and the other in Science. Next, I reported to the *USS Lafayette* SSBN-616 Blue Crew, made two patrols in her after which I finished my almost 24 year career as Transient Division Officer at COMSUBGRUTWO, Naval Base, Groton, CT. I was discharged June 29, 1979. My wife, David and I went back home to Maine where I got a job with John J. McMullen Associates (JJMA) working for Sup Ships at the Bath Iron Works (BIW) shipyard in Bath, ME. I stayed with JJMA 16 years and retired as a Sr. Marine Project Engineer. In 1959, I divorced Donna, my wife of 31+ years, and I went to Portland, ME to live four years on a 30 foot lobster yacht named "*Mary Free*" (after my great grandmother). During that time of trying to "find myself" (it took me three years on that 30 foot boat!), I went to school for my 6-Pack Coast Guard license and also my 50-ton Masters license. I formed my "7Cs" sport fishing and water Taxi Company and "Mary" and I went Atlantic Blue Fin Tuna fishing. For grins and giggle, I also became a stock broker for Prudential Finance. In Oct 1998, I met my "Ginnie" and we were married in June 1999. We live on the east side of Long Lake in Harrison, ME (about 40 miles north of Portland) where Ginnie is a real estate broker and I'm just broke! For a couple of years, I tried my hand at running my own travel business and a lake towing/salvage business, finally deciding that helping Ginnie with her web site (www.GinniesMaineRealEstate.us); becoming Commander of the local VFW Post; and Adjutant of the local American Legion was enough to keep me busy. I've since moved on to Junior Vice Commander of the USS Maine Base, USSVI (United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.) I'm currently setting up "Friendly Village Firearms". I will be teaching a Basic Handgun training course for home defense and also an Introduction to Concealed Carry course utilizing USCCA (US Conceal Carry Alliance) materials. I hope to soon become a certified USCCA instructor and have applied for a Federal Firearms Type 1 license. I have to tell you that, when I left *Power* carrying my sea bag, I looked back for a moment at my home for the last three years and a couple of tears welled up. I enjoyed some great times in that ship, our ship, and made some lasting friendships, one of which with shipmate, Bill Hutton, FT2, lasted many years after we both served in submarines. Bill passed away of Lou Gehrigs Disease (ALS) in 2004. My tour in *Power* prepared me well for my adventures in submarines. I shall always cherish first getting my sea legs in DD-839. As your web master, I know I'm "Johnny New Guy", so if you note errors, omissions or have other concerns with the site, please don't hesitate to contact me. I am honored to be entrusted with the task of keeping our web site current. (If I could only remember to do the same with my annual dues!)

My email address is: bspaulding@portland.twbc.com Telephone is: 207-583-4931 ...

Fair winds, Brian Spaulding

USS Power DD-839 Website

<http://www.USSPowerDD839.org>

Welcome new Webmaster : Brian Spaulding



Deceased: Shipmate

William Lou House, age 84 of Oviedo, passed away Sunday January 18, 2015. He was born August 9, 1930 in Atlanta, Georgia. Inurnment will be at Florida National Cemetery at a later date.

WILLIAM LOU HOUSE COMMANDER USN RETIRED

William "Lou" House was a member of United States Submarine Veterans, Inc.(USSVI) since 1991 and a loyal member of Cyberspace Base-USSVI on the Internet. In the Navy Lou served aboard the destroyer USS Power (DD-839), battleship USS Wisconsin (BB-64), Submarines USS Tiru (SS-416), USS Ethan Allen (SSBN-608), and submarine tender USS Orian, AS-18 Lou qualified in submarines on the USS Tiru (SS-416) in 1956 and was a LCDR when he left the Navy.

I knew Lou since 1997 when we first started the USS POWER DD 839 ASSN. Lou was Shipmate of the Year 2002 and President from 2003 to 2006 that is when I got to know him he was a great speaker a good shipmate and friend I will miss him. He will be remembered and honored at our reunion this year in Mobile, AL.

JIM BROCKLEBANK, Treasure /Storekeeper
E-MAIL: JB3536@YAHOO.COM PHONE: (205) 758-2725
LOT'S OF ITEMS FOR SALE ! GO TO: WWW.USSPOWERDD839.ORG



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Hoping all shipmates are done with snow shoveling and merging into Spring. Entries have been coming in for the 2015 reunion in Mobile, AL in May. Checking account balance at present time is \$10,500. Much of this amount will be for reunion expenditures. Do not forget dues for this year are due now. New membership cards will be sent with the April Newsletter. Hope all have a nice Holiday coming up and see you all in Mobile.

Jim / Treasure

USS POWER DD 839 ASSOCIATION
JOHN S. PINTO
P.O. BOX 640813
BEVERLY HILLS, FL. 34464



«Address Block»

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Hello, fellow Shipmates and Families!

WELCOME SPRING!! We, in the north, have really "had it" with the long, cold winter and our spirits have lifted a lot by the last few days of finally seasonal temperatures and heavenly sunshine, melting away our abundance of snow! Easter may have just passed by the time you get this newsletter. Hallelujah! He is risen! He was crucified but the grave could not keep Him and we all have the promise of eternal life in heaven, instead of Hell, if we believe in him and accept His gift of salvation! I am overly saddened by the passing of our Commander, Lou House. He was a mentor to me since my first reunion in Charleston. It was then that he asked if I would consider being assistant chaplain. I said: "I'll pray about it and get back with you in a few months," Lou was greatly respected by everyone. I, personally, will miss Lou very much. There's a time to be born and a time to die and what we do in the meantime is what counts for eternity.

Looking forward to seeing you at the reunion!

Sincerely
Chaplain Duane C., "Dewey" Ray

Cell 607-229-3164
Home 607-533-4700

