

**APRIL
2016**

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



DUES ARE NOW DUE FOR 2016 \$20.00 MAKE CHECK OUT TO: USS POWER DD 839 ASSOC.
SEND TO : BOB PULASKI
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PRESIDENT'S NOTES:

The snow is beginning to melt in the mid-west and we are seeing Robins returning to our yards. This must mean that our reunion is on the horizon. The tours are all set up for our reunion in Washington, DC. You should have signed up for your tours by now. These tours do not cover all that there is to do and see in DC, you may want to do some tours on your own. Our Webmaster Brian Spaulding has resigned. Anyone interested in taking over this job should contact one of our Officers. Remember all of us are recruiters, if we find a former shipmate, invite him to attend our reunions and to join the USS POWER DD 839 ASSOCIATION. Please, all of us must pay our DUES in order to keep our ASSOCIATION going. Remember what Will Rogers said "Even if you are on the right track, you will get run over if you just sit there." Linda and I are looking forward to seeing you all in Washington, DC. As we approach the Memorial Day Holiday, Let us all pause and remember those men and women who have served their country in the past and those who are currently serving this great nation.

May God Bless the U.S.A

Carl P. Burnham, President
USS POWERS (DD 839) Association
9185 Ogden Street
Omaha, NE 68134
PH: (402) 571-1865

USS POWER DD 839 OFFICERS

President- Carl Burnham
Sr. Vice President - Ed Chartrand
Jr. Vice President - John Goricki
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Newsletter— John Pinto

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SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT NOTES:

Greetings Fellow Shipmates and Powerful Ladies.....

It doesn't seem that long ago I was mentioning the winter months that were about to arrive. It has turned out to be a strange winter and it's not over yet. From east to west the weather seems to be out of wack. Hopefully the weather will balance out in the Spring and Summer for our reunion. On the subject of our reunion I am really looking forward to meeting in Washington D.C., so much to do and see. Once again it will be great to be back together with shipmates and friends sharing stories and catching up on everything over the last year. If you cannot locate a shipmate invite your family and friends to join us. John Goricki don't forget to practice your Karaoke skills for the reunion. Did you thank a Veteran today?

PRAYER FOR VETERAN'

Heavenly Father, on this day, help us remember those who gave of themselves to keep us safe and secure. Enkindle in our consciences a desire to serve those who served their country selflessly. Give us the grace to aid those who have given aid and protection to us and others both here and overseas. Let us never forget the causes for which they fought or the bravery they showed on the battlefield. May we be always be mindful of those who paid the price for our freedom, just as your Son gave his life to free us from the bondage of sin.

Amen

Ed Chartrand, Sr. Vice President
www.edandlou27@sbcglobal.net

JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT

Shipmates,

As I sit here in beautiful South Carolina enjoying the lovely weather and listening to the calming and soothing of the chirping of the birds I am reminded of June in Washington, D.C. I did live in D.C., area for about 13 years. In fact I lived a few miles from where our reunion will be held this year. June was my favorite month there at that time and I am eagerly looking forward to our reunion in June this time. Speaking of reunions, to those of you who haven't signed up yet I would greatly implore you to do so quickly. There is not much time left you know. Our numbers are falling every year and I think that we will have to seriously look at other options at our next meeting. I fervently hope that no changes will be necessary, so I urge those of you who are still contemplating to please think of the wonderful comradery, the wonderful sights of D.C., and the wonderful June weather to sign up now. Do not let us simply fade away.

I am hoping that you are all in good health and will remain so.

See you in D.C.

Polk Salad Annie

John Goricki





FROM THE DESK OF THE
SECRETARY ROBERT PULASKI

Shipmates :

The Holidays are over, winter should be on its way out and now our sights should be on our Washington DC. Reunion. John has put together a great package of tours and Dinners. For those who have not sent in their Reservations please do so—The tours require a minimum amount of people & as of this date we have not met that number. Also dues are important to our Association & it would be greatly appreciated if you would send them in please do .

Looking forward to see you in DC.
Safe trip to all
Bob Pulaski



USS POWER DD 839

POWERFUL LADIES* AUXILIARY*

CHAIRWOMAN

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Julia Goricki
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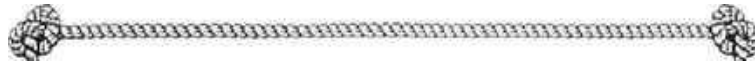
USS POWERFUL LADIES AUXILIARY.....

Are you all set for the Washington D.C. area trip in June? It should be a great, informative and busy tours that John & Kay set up for us. Our "Welcome Aboard" dinner theme is red, white & blue on our 1st. night there. There will be a prize for the best male and female attire. Could you have your sailor turn in his photo of himself in uniform for our WALL of HONOR? A 5 x 7 works best but you can send in any size. We will put them up in the hospitality room year after year. Please put name, rank and years in the Navy on the back of the photo. Bring your photo to the reunion or mail to me. We will have BINGO on the 1st. night after the welcome aboard dinner. The Ladies meeting will be the same day and time as the Men's meeting. For our DINNER DANCE the last night of the reunion could you make or purchase a door prize? Do you thank a Veteran everyday at the grocery store, mall or walking down the street? Ladies don't forget to bring your spouse's Navy photo album! It's great to go down memory lane with the shipmates.

Chairwomen, Mary Lou Chartrand
www.edandlou27@sbcglobal.net
606 Edgebrook Drive
Shorewood, IL. 60404



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Welcome Shipmates :

I hope this letter finds you all well and looking forward to the next reunion in Washington DC Area. The Hotel we are staying at was just renovated with a new look and updated room décor & amenities. The Crowne Plaza Washington Dulles Airport hotel is pleased to be the home of Houlihans Restaurant where we will have our breakfast buffet each morning. We are approximately 45 minutes from the DC Arlington and Mount Vernon area on the toll road VA 267. Our first tour Friday June 10, 2016 will consist of a Private Tram for 1-1/2 hour which only holds 38 less with wheel chairs or scooters. We had to change the time that we leave the Hotel to 7:00 am for Arlington cemetery in order to see the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and go through the rest of the stops before returning back to the Welcome Center at 10:00 am and pick up our tour guide Linda who will take us to the Memorials and Monuments. We will just meet our numbers to do the Arlington tour and break out even, so if you haven't sent your check in you can still do so. In the next two years we will know if we are still able to hold a reunion since we are down to the bare bones. Unfortunately we are all getting older and have ailments which keep us from attending. We have not recruited any new members. The only thing keeping us afloat is the family members who come with the shipmate and we thank you all for that. I have been trying to get the saber that Lou House brought to the reunion each year for our Cake cutting ceremony but I haven't had any luck. One of the family members must have wanted it. Carl Burnham our President has one he said he would bring it for our ceremony at the Welcome Aboard Buffet. After our sword cutting ceremony we will have Bingo and Mary Lou Chartrand & her crew will have raffle items for Bingo winners. If we are lucky we may get 20 shipmates and have a quorum to vote on our 2018 reunion location. I got the ok from Carl Burnham to get a Karaoke Machine & Monitor, to use at our Banquet Dinner and as a PA System. This is in the trial stage, so we can use all the help we can get. We used the money from last years DJ who gave us back our money because his system broke down. We also received money that the DJ refunded us due to his equipment was not working. We also received money back from the Holiday Inn Mobile Airport for their bad breakfast. I would like to use it for Raffles. They would be for "A Free Room Night " We could use one at Bingo for big prize and a couple at the Banquet Dinner & Karaoke. **For shipmates and guest coming to the reunion by air you are directed to call 1-703-471-6700 –press 6 for Shuttle pick up time.** Go to Baggage Claim pick up luggage and go through door # 6 to Curbside pick up 2H. Don't forget the theme for our Welcome Aboard is Red White & Blue. Mary Lou will be picking out the best selected dress up and you might even win a prize for the best dressed Red White & Blue. Upon receiving this newsletter I hope you have made your room reservation because the cut off date to book a room is 5/6/2016 –Tours are still open send your money in and you will be added to the list. If you have any questions send me a e-mail and I will get back to you.

Safe Trip to Reunion
Looking forward to seeing you All
John Pinto
jpinto839@gmail.com

Colombo, Ceylon

For most of us from 28 November to 3 December 1962 was in a port-of-call more distant from homeport than any other visited. Today this island, separated from the southern tip of the Indian Sub-Continent by the Gulf of Mannar, is known as Sri Lanka, an independent country. When we were there it was a colony of the British Commonwealth. But first a little aside. On the afternoon of 27 November 1962 Swim Call Was announced over the P.A.System. It lasted a little over an hour. Those who couldn't swim were welcome to go in too if they wore a life Jacket. I didn't get to go as three or four Gunner's Mates had to stand watch with rifles on the O1 deck looking for sharks. It was quite a sight seeing so many men swimming and horsing around in the ocean while the ship stood dead in the water. Thinking back we all had to be able to swim to graduate Boot Camp. That doesn't means we like to or trusted our ability to do so. Had I been able to go in that day I would have been one of those wrapped in a life jacket - maybe two. I got liberty that first day in Colombo and discovered the "Galle Face Hotel" in the center of downtown. In a letter home I described it as very classy because it had a big dining room and four different bars. It was there I learned Colombo's Zoo was world class and should be visited. Our second. Day in Colombo provided a busy schedule of official calls from dignitaries. This meant side boys and the honor guard were in constant use. Being in the honor guard and the one who broke out and stowed the gear kept me as busy as a one armed paperhanger. Every day we were in Colombo the ship hosted an open house all afternoon. Visitors, literally hundreds of them came aboard to tour the ship. They were a varied crowd, the local population along with Indians, Chinese and British. One of the amusements provided them was to set up each day a firearms display in the hanger on the O1 deck. It consisted of the Machine gun (the ship had only one). Browning automatic rifle, a Field Pack, M-1 Rifle, .45 Pistol, M-1 Carbine and bayonets' two of us stood by to answer questions and explain things to people streaming by. This activity lasted until 1630 each day. That also was the time the Colombo Zoo closed so I never got to see it. The weather during our visit was quite tolerable with temperatures in the 70's and 80's for the most part and much cloudiness. I recall it did rain in the afternoons often hard. Colombo streets offered an unusual take on urban life differing greatly from your usual port-of-call. A flatbed wagon, much the same as a hay wagon with rubber tires, being drawn by an elephant. Camels were numerous downtown. One sitting at the curb, parked as an automobile would be, spit on us when we stopped to make its acquaintance. I recall visiting a restaurant having only its kitchen under a roof. The entire dining room was under the stars. Its walls Were eight foot high white lattice work panels one having a pointed archway as the entrance. At that time only the British presence provided some continuity with the western world in a land so distant from our own. Colombo represented in spades the wonderful advantage of being in the Navy. Visits to lands and. cultures that were themselves an education of immense value. We left this exotic land to rendezvous with our fate to become Shellbacks via the tender mercies of our shipmates who were already so recognizes.

Here is the last installment of our cruise. I've covered all the material I have. I want to thank you for the opportunity to do this project. My only regret is that at the time I didn't write more of what we did and saw and a hell of a lot less of the mush and outright photography I was writing to my wife. These articles will provide a record of this adventure we had for my children and grandchildren. I am lucky enough to have two diaries my Dad kept on four cruises he made to England and France in World War I and as he died when I was 20 they hold great value to me .

If I can be of any service to the ship's association in the future let me know.

Your Old Shipmate,
Dan Tagtmeyer GM3

**A Note From
The Classon Home
Article Two**



Composed, edited, and written by
H. B. Classon Jr., USN, 1949 at
Boot Camp. Great Lakes NTS, Ill.

"Around The Horn"

The USS Power sailed the ocean blue
In nineteen hundred and fifty two.
She crossed the "Line" and rounded the Horn
Wind beaten, battered, and slightly torn

The crew aboard was split in two
Sailors old and sailors new.
The time we had was really fine
The day we crossed the Equator line.

The King came aboard with Davey Jones.
His Queen followed with Billy Bones.
The Royal Doctor with his mortician friend
Came trailing along at the very end.

They took their places on the fantail court
And called for the first Pollywog sport.
The ceremony began with a crack and a thump
And someone yelled as he was hit on the rump.

On to the King, the Queen, and the Barber,
On to the Cops then through Grease Harbor.
The Dentist came next then the Doctor's brigade.
The water followed, then Tiny's Stockade

Laughing and joking and feeling fine,
We said farewell to the Equator line.
On to Rio, and liberty for all,
On to Rio for a fireman's ball.

Singing and dancing on this foreign shore,
Fun and frolic for three days or four.
Now it is time for us to depart
To head back to sea from whence we did start.

In a burst of speed we headed for the "Horn".
All hands waiting for Sunday morn.
For Sunday morn we'd complete our fete
By rounding the point where two oceans meet.

Page One

We began to rock and pitch and bounce.
We measured our fuel right to the ounce.
We rolled and rocked for three days and nights
With winds and seas at terrific heights.

We pulled into Chile after ten days of travel,
Our mooring lines again we did unravel.
Our leader was fooled by this rocky coast.
We pulled into the wrong harbor, almost.

But, we arrived our scheduled date
Low on fuel and a few hours late.
We had a little liberty, two days out of four,
Then steamed to sea, heading North once more

Lima is the name of our next foreign town,
A port in Peru with its name renown.
There we'll have fun and frolic again
Whether there be sunshine, fog, or rain.

Cloudy it was when we entered Peru,
But soon clouds parted and the sun shown through.
The gangway was lowered and the men went ashore
For a little recreation and maybe a tour.

Our time ran out and we had to depart
To head for home from whence we did start.
Through the Canal in seven hours or eight,
Then North in the Atlantic at a tremendous rate.

We arrived in Newport on twenty-two June
And moored to a "Mike" a little past noon.
Finish was written in our log, at last,
And the cruise around the horn is a thing of the past.

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Composed by H.B. Classon, Jr. ,RD3
May thru June, 1952 while serving
aboard the USS Power DD839 while
sailing from the Atlantic to the Pacific
Via a trip around Cape Horn.

USS Power DD-839 Website

http://www.USSPowerDD839.org

We want to thank Brian for his time he spent on the website & wish him well. The Power website will close down if we don't get another webmaster to take over the job. We have until April 29, 2016 to renew and May 17, 2016 to keep Domain name .org or it will all go away. So step up and volunteer . If you have the knowledge and time to maintain & update the Power Website and keep it up and running contact John Pinto : jpinto839@gmail.com



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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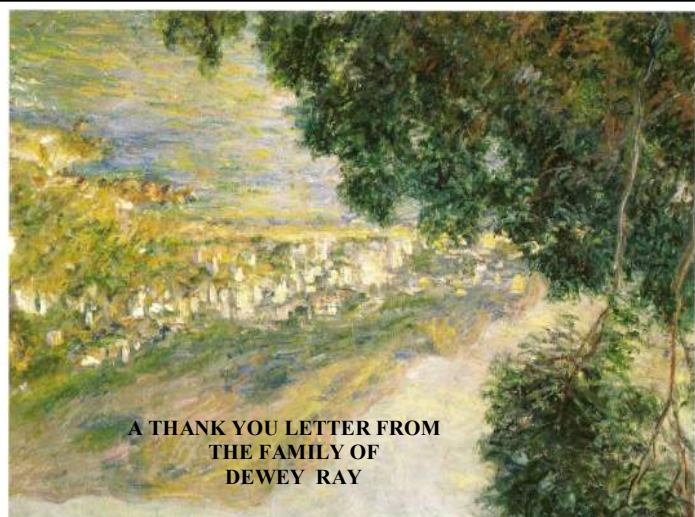
Treasurers Report. Checks are starting to come in for reunion. for those that have not sent in yet please do so as it makes it easier for those planning the reunion. Checking account at present time is \$6962.00 and building up with reunion fees coming in.

Storekeeper Report. A new supply of shirts and hats have been received and all merchandise will be available at reunion as usual. Only 2 jackets left in stock, 1 sm and 1 med.

2/15/16

John and Kay ~

We just wanted to let you know how much we appreciate your prayers for my dad and for us... we definitely felt them! Thank you also for your very kind words in your emails. He was a very precious man, we miss him greatly, but we were blessed to share life with him! He leaves a gigantic hole in our lives (especially my mom's) but we are ^{all} doing a bit better. Thank you for all your communications with the shipmates for us! My family, + I are here for the winter in Florida now (it's hard here for all of us because so much here reminds us of my dad), we are later than usual because of making sure my mom + the property (+ tenants) were set for the winter. We tried to get my mom to come with us but she felt she had things she had to do yet. We hope she comes ^{some way} in March. She's doing okay, **Thank You** she had been pretty lonely but is better in the last week or so. Previously, she felt robbed + overwhelmed. Her thinking is still fairly introverted, which is completely not her nature. She (we) haven't decided yet on the reunion, it may only be for the two-bell ceremony dinner - she's pretty emotional yet + that will be a lot of precious, but painful now, memories. We will let



A THANK YOU LETTER FROM THE FAMILY OF DEWEY RAY

you know. We all want to thank you for so many wonderful memories over the years at the reunions - we all loved them and will miss them being with my dad! Thank you, and all the shipmates, for bringing a lot of joy into my dad's life - he loved you all, the reunions + his responsibilities + roles there (as well as his ~~services~~ service). Feel free to share what's been up with us ^{with} the shipmates, especially Dad's priority of ensuring everyone know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. God bless you richly! Sue, Elaine & Dewey Jr. and families

Thank you for your prayer donation on Dad's behalf.

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ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Someone to Stand by You

Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association, Inc.

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



«Address Block»



THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

In Memory of
DUANE C. (Dewey) RAY
Deceased: October 6, 2015



I was made Chaplain at the first reunion 20 years ago. Several years back, I stepped down when my health deteriorated, and Dewey Ray stepped forward and did a great job. I stayed on as his assistant. As you know by now, God called Dewey home to be with him. God has given me new strength and vigor, so I will be your Chaplain for as long as you and He let me. I hope this letter finds you and yours doing well. If any of you are in the Daytona Beach area, I live a stone's throw from the ocean in Ormond Beach, and I'd love to have you visit. My phone number, if you want to visit, fellowship, or pray together, is (386) 265-1645. You can also email me your needs or prayers, to mandcfarrens@gmail.com.

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10.

I hope many of you will be able to come to Washington DC for our 20th USS Power DD839 Association Reunion. Our memories and friendships are so wonderful.

Sincerely,
Michael "Mike" Farrens

Seaman 1st Division, 1961-1963