

August
2014

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



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Those who were not able to make the 18th USS Power reunion in Jacksonville FL missed a really good time! We had 31 shipmates attending with four (4) first timers. Mr. William Barker is one of the "first timers" who attended. He is 90 years young and a plank owner of the USS Power when it was commissioned in 1945. May God bless him and keep him healthy! The cake cutting ceremony was performed by none other than our plank owners William Barker and Dan Parent. Thank you for your service.

We visited the Mayport Naval Base which has changed quite a lot! For one thing, the Base no longer has any destroyers or Carriers moored there. They have hopes of getting a nuclear carrier in the near future. There are more training facilities that were not there when most of us were stationed aboard the Power. The Navy Base is now HUGE!! I was totally amazed at the changes that have been made! AND, the Navy Exchange and Commissary have expanded tremendously. What a difference! It is nothing like it was when I was stationed there in 1970!

We had a tour of Jacksonville, FL and it has changed a lot since I was there in 1970-1973. We got a history lesson when we toured the VETERANS WALL. It has the names of all who served in the military from the CIVIL WAR up to the war in Afghanistan. Jacksonville was their home of record and their names are listed under the high school they had attended. These are men who have given their life for our freedom today. They are, to this day, adding names to this same wall of the men who have given their life for our freedom. Let's all pray that the wars overseas will end soon!

I want to thank Chairman John Pinto, Chairman of the Ladies Auxiliary, Mary Lou Chartrand and anyone else, which are too many to name that had a part in making this as my last reunion as your president a great success.

Your friend and shipmate
WILLIAM {BILL} LILLEY, PRESIDENT

USS POWER DD 839 OFFICERS

President - William Bill Lilley
Sr. Vice President - Carl Burnham
Jr. Vice President - Ed Chartrand
Secretary - Bob Pulaski
Treasurer - Jim Brocklebank
Chairman - John S. Pinto

STAFF:

Master At Arms - John Goricki
Storekeeper - Jim Brocklebank
Assistant Chaplain - Michael Farren
Chaplain - Dewey Ray

PAGE		WHAT'S INSIDE PAGE	
2	OFFICERS	3	SECRETARY REPORT
4	PINTO'S REPORT	5	REUNION INFO
6	EVENTS & INFO	7	WEB SITE - TREASURER
8	CHAPLAIN'S REPORT		



Senior Vice President (President Elect) NOTES:

I would like to thank all you shipmates for voting me in as your next President. I hope you all had a good time at our reunion in Jacksonville, FL. Robert Frost said "If we couldn't laugh, we would all go insane." We had lots of laughs in Jacksonville, so I guess we are not insane. Now is the time to start thinking about our next reunion in Mobile, AL. May 12th to 16th 2015. There are a lot of good things to do and see in Mobile. This is for the new members, as well as all members, that joined us in Jacksonville, I hope you enjoyed the reunion and will be with us at all future reunions.

Carl P. Burnham, Senior Vice President (President Elect)
9185 Ogden Street
Omaha, NE 68134
(402) 571-1865

Greetings Fellow Shipmates and Powerful Ladies:

Hope everyone enjoyed the Jacksonville reunion as much as I did. For me it was 50 years from the time I was first stationed in Mayport. Can't say I recognized anything, everything changed. Trips to downtown Jacksonville and Jax's beach proved to be as Mayport, nothing looked the same but of course none of us look the same either. A high point of the tour was the timing of the USS Stark memorial, so glad that we could participate.

A big shout out to Rick Goings for all the Tupperware gift certificates that all the shipmates were given in their welcome packets and for the Tupperware items for door prizes. I know me and Mary Lou will have fun ordering off the website. Dinner and our entertainment was great, especially the magician, thanks to John and Kay. Thanks also to the association for the Sailor.

Another highlight of our trip was in the hospitality room when we had the honor of meeting and shaking hands with the Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Robert R. Ingram 1st. cousin of Buddy Ulm USS Power shipmate 1963-1965. Robert was given the medal by President Clinton in 1998. You can Google his name and hear his story, what a hero!

Ed Chartrand, Jr. Vice President





FROM THE DESK OF THE
SECRETARY ROBERT PULASKI

Shipmates ;

We just completed our 18th annual reunion and it was a great one. We had good attendance And I'm sure it was an enjoyable time for all of us.

The magic show was a great ending for the Banquet dinner. Many of our guests were included. A big "Thank You " to John and Kathleen Pinto for their tireless work in putting Together these reunions.

As a reminder to all; we need to reach out to our former shipmates who do not belong to the Association. We have to continue our efforts to bring more men aboard. Each year we gain a few, but we also lose some. Keep Recruiting. Keep our Association Alive.

A Happy/Healthy, Summer and Fall to All.

Bob Pulaski

Secty.

USS POWER LADIES AUXILIARY

USS Powerful Ladies:

It was so good to see our old friends and make some new friends in Jacksonville. What a good time we all had, good weather and great tours set up by John & Kay Pinto! Thanks to John & Kay for all the time and effort you put in on planning our itinerary. The "Welcome Aboard" dinner was a huge success and what great costumes. For me I especially liked touring the Mayport Naval Base and I know it brought back a lot of memories for Ed and the shipmates. The memorial for the USS Stark at the base was very moving seeing the Sailors that survived and hearing the voice of Captain Wesley R. McCall recall the events that happened the day the ship was attacked. We went on the dinner cruise and enjoyed a beautiful night on the St. Johns River dancing and looking at the skyline.

We saw the ship that was the first to find the Titanic under her watery grave. In talking to the people who went to the Alhambra Dinner Theater to see Barbara Eden, the show was great and the food was good I loved the "Wall of Heroes" that we had set up in the hospitality room. We had 22 photos of shipmates, wives, moms and dads. I will put up the photos year after year so you can bring your photos to the next reunion or mail them to me. There were so many great gifts for our door prizes, both handcrafted and purchased. Thanks to all who donated.

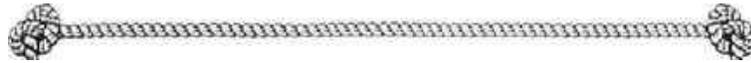
Our next reunion is Mobile, Ala. it will be here before you know it. Please get your photo albums put together to share at the next reunion. Halloween theme is for the next "Welcome Aboard" dinner. It will be easy to get a costume together or just wear a hat. Are you promoting patriotism? Thanking a Vet when you see them on the street, mall, grocery store or airport, maybe even going to the VFW or Am. Legion for their dinners. There is a great organization in Joliet, IL. that sends pkgs. to our military guys & gals in hot zones only, www.operationcarepackages.org sends all year long and everyday at Christmas.

Remember: Recycle, Renew & Reuse Chairman, Mary Lou Chartrand

Any questions call 815 744-3978 or edandlou27@sbcglobal.net



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Welcome Shipmates:

I would like to thank all that came to the reunion and those who donated raffle items for the Welcome Aboard and the Banquet. We wish all our shipmates could attend but for various reasons are unable to do so. Please keep them in your prayers and keep in touch. We welcomed five new members this year and hope they will return next year. We would like to thank "Rick Goings" who donated many Tupperware gift certificates and baskets. We would also like to thank "Mark Murphy" who donated the Budweiser Beer for our Hospitality Room which was enjoyed by all. The Powerful Ladies did a great job with the raffle calling by Mary Lou Chartrand and assisted by Betty Brocklebank. We like to thank Jim Brocklebank for running the Share the Wealth Raffle, and all the Executive and Staff Board Officers, and all the guests and family members of the shipmates who came. Without them it would not have been a success. Our Membership meeting was held on Saturday the 18th of May. The membership voted for our 2016 reunion location and the Washington, DC area was chosen. Elections were held and they take effect Jan. 1, 2015. Our new President, Carl Burnham and Sr. Vice President, Ed Chartrand, Jr. Vice President John Goricki. All will serve for a three year term. Also part of the Executive Board willing to stay on are Secretary Bob Pulaski, Treasurer Jim Brocklebank & Chairman John Pinto. Staff member assigned Master At Arms, Eric Barnes was picked by Past President Bill Lilley. Our date for our 2015 Mobile Alabama reunion is May 12 -16, 2015 and the host Hotel is Holiday Inn Mobile Airport, you can **check it out on our website www.usspowerdd839.org and look under "johns info"**. I have enclosed a Questionnaire Form for you to fill out and mail back to me if you have not already done so. This will give us an idea of how many will be attending the reunion and what functions they are interested in doing. I just want to clarify a few items that came up during the reunion. In reference to the raffle items, the only fair way for the majority of the group is to follow these guidelines so everyone is treated fairly.

Drawing for Raffle items, names to be put in for drawing. Eligible for drawing are shown below.

- 1- All Shipmates: Paid Function, Dues paid & Registration fee paid.
- 2- Guest: Paid Function, Registration fee paid & Staying at Host Hotel under Power Group booking.

Table Calling for the Buffet Line:

Numbers will be picked out of a bowl from 1 to 8 and #1 will be called first and so on.
We would appreciate you waiting until your number is called.

Any Complaints Get in Line.

Safe Trip To The Reunion
John Pinto

19 Men –Stories by Dan Tagtmeyer aboard the USS POWER DD 839-Early 1960's

The morning of 19 December 1962, Wednesday, found the USS POWER DD 839 anchored off shore at Berbera, Somalia. She had arrived the day before to this anchorage. Berbera, located on the Horn of Africa directly across the Gulf of Aden from the city of Aden. Today Aden is the country of Yemen, then it was in what was called "South Arabia" a British Protectorate. The day before our arrival the executive office, Mr. Kelly, gave a briefing in the morning informing us there is nothing in Berbera. He explained; "there is no airport, no pier, no wharf, no shops, no bars, no transportation, no movie and as a result no liberty." When we anchored a good ways out Berbera to us looked like a sleepy village. The scenery behind it was that of flatlands gradually rising into distant mountain peaks. In December the dominate color was many shades of brown spotted with patches of green. As the ship's armorer I remember getting the Army issue packs down from the shelves in the armory the day before. We had known for some time the Landing Party was going on a bivouac somewhere but didn't know where until the 17th or 18th. The Armory, located at the center of the thwartship passageway midship was tiny, measuring about six by eight feet. In this area were racks for 15 rifles, 15 pistols, 4 Browning Automatic Rifles, 4 Thompson Submachine guns, 1.30 cal. Air-cooled Machine gun and a line throwing gun. There was precious little area left for a desktop and chair. The packs were stored on shelving that went up to the underside of the 01 level on three sides. There were nineteen of us, including Lt. Korrell the Gunnery Officer, who left the ship that morning and got ashore about 0930. There we were joined by a native constable who was to be our guide. Short in stature he wore a brown British uniform of short trousers and large pockets on his shirt. The land was primarily stone and sand the only shade coming from large bushes and scattered trees. The land producing little vegetation the people were mostly sheep and goat herders. Their homes were built of sticks and mud, huts to our way of thinking. Only public buildings and some houses on the seashore seemed to be permanent structures. Everyone now put on their packs. Each contained food, mess-kit, tent-half, poncho, blanket, tent pegs and personal gear. We set off under a scorching sun marching through town paralleling the shore line. We soon came upon a group of houses having a wooden palisade completely around them. A group of women came out of this village to look at the strange assembly passing by, clothed in bright colored dresses they were quite jovial clapping their hands and chanting as we plodded along. After going about three miles the other side of town we stopped to rest. Between nineteen men there were twenty-three quarts of water and already some were sipping from their canteens. Once rested we split up into three groups and started inland aiming for mountains. My group walked steady for two hours over the rocky very dry ground before stopping. The heat was tempered somewhat by strong breeze blowing off the ocean behind us. It kept the sweat under our shirts cool. We were now clustered under a tree, which were few and far between. None of the other two groups were anywhere around so we built a fire to locate them which worked. I believe we then went a little further as a unit before stopping and pitching our camp. We had gone about eight or ten miles inland. The mountains stayed a long way off. In these latitudes, about ten degrees above the equator, evening and twilight doesn't last too long. Night came fast after we had eaten our supper. However, in that short time the conversation among us was all about water as by now some had very little left. And we were a long way from any. When night came it got much cooler and sleep followed quickly. No surprise after that hike. The next morning after eating and packing up all our gear we started back about 0900. By now the lack of water was causing some heated discussions about those who had little left sharing with their parched shipmates. I remember Lt. Korrell doing some yelling himself at those involved. The trip out of the desert was quite somber and quick. We cared little now to notice the long eared jack-rabbits, the jumping gazelles and strange birds observed on our trek inland. The closer we got to the ocean the faster we went. We came to it near the spot we started from, about three miles from town. The last couple of hundred yards we ran shedding our packs, shoes and clothes at the water's edge. I'll never forget the sensation of plunging into that water. I wrote; "I've never had a more refreshing dip in my life. After being so hot and sweaty, feet aching like hell you can't imagine how good that water felt." About half an hour after we began frolicking in the water here came an army truck loaded with water, food and beer sent by the ship. The day we were absent there was a ship's party. So we had our party there on the beach until late afternoon. My last memory of this adventure was that evening or the next day stowing the packs back on their shelves. A very unique experience to say the least. I wrote to my wife the day after our adventure. I didn't speculate on the obvious things such as **what we ate or even the trip from the ship to shore** as I didn't write about them at the time and of course now, can no longer remember. Quite a few questions have come to mind just remembering this event. Such as, **the motor whale boat wouldn't hold 19 men would it? Did it make more than one trip to get us all ashore? Or would it hold 19 men?** At any rate this was a fun project for an old man who turned 75, I have 58 letters from that cruise perhaps I could glean information for another article. I look forward to seeing it in print. Hopefully, we are not the only two of nineteen left in contact with the Power Association.

Dan Tagtmeyer 62-64 GMG3

Look for next posting December 2014

If you remember the march in the desert and any answers to our questions or if you were one of the 19 men.

Share your experience. Mr. Korrell please send me an update of your experience.

Send E-mail: jpinto839@gmail.com

John Pinto



Shipmates Photo's

Top Row
 Mike Farrens
 Ray Koffroth
 Harry Mack
 Don Cox
 Commander Jorgenson

Bottom Row
 John Goricki
 Frank Kruse
 Bieberback
 Bill Tipton
 Gerald Dunlap
 Jon Angel
 Joe Grostic
 Homer Tack



Shipmates Photo's

Top Row
 Dan Parent

2nd Row
 Jack VanDevender
 Ed Chartrand
 Don Lonteen
 R. Wiberg
 Jack Jaworski
 Steve Campbell

3rd Row
 Richard Walsh
 Dewey Ray
 Marvin Dutschmann
 Carl Burnham

4th Row
 Dick Durgin
 Benny Latino
 Jim Brocklebank
 Aurey Barras

** Wall of Heroes **

USS Power DD-839 Website
www.USSPowerDD839.org

WANTED:

SHIPMATE or Family Member to volunteer to assume Maintaining & Webmaster Duties
Website has been inactive since October 2013

Contact : Bill Lilley magellan@peoplescom.net

Treasure's Report

We have received thank you letters for our donation for 2014 from the U.S. Navy Memorial, Wash. DC, from the Tin Can Sailors in Mass. and also from The Wounded Warriors Project, Florida. Present balance in checking acct. is \$3940.00.

Store Keeper

Ordered blue ball caps and will be in stock shortly. Sold out of them at our Jacksonville reunion. Price is still the same as posted on our website. Hope all shipmates have a good summer have no problems with the odd weather that has been happening across the nation.

Jim's Garden

POWER JACKET
**A LIGHT WEIGHT 100%
NYLON LINING JACKET.
GREAT FOR COOL DAYS &
NIGHTS**
**PRICE: \$30
FOR S THRU XXL
INCLUDING SHIPPING**

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

Late one night a burglar broke into a house and while he was sneaking around he heard a voice say "Jesus is watching you". He looks around and saw nothing. He kept creeping around and again he heard "Jesus is watching you". In a dark corner he saw a cage with a parrot inside. The burglar asked the parrot, "Was it you who said "Jesus is watching me". The parrot replied, "yes" relieved, the burglar said "what is your name"? The parrot said, "Clarence." The burglar said "that's a stupid name for a parrot. What idiot named you Clarence?" "The same idiot that named the Rottweiler - JESUS".

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

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Greetings Fellow Shipmates,

Well, our May reunion in Jacksonville seems a long time ago already - "time flies when you are having fun"?! Or "a lot of water over the dam" – literally in some places. We hope you all have been healthy and safe! At the reunion, it was especially nice for us to have my sister, daughter and family with us. They were glad they came and got to understand a bit about my relationship with The Navy and you folks. My sister has taken a "hiatus" from her Chemo, is still feeling ok. She even flew a trip North and had a busy & good 3 weeks here. We are trusting The Lord that healing is happening as a friend in the Lord told her he had received that word from The Lord. Mark 9:22-24, in the Bible, says: (24) "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief." - When a father asked Jesus to - "if you can" heal his sick son and Jesus had replied "If you can believe, all things are possible to he that believes".

God knows we all fall short in our faith (and walk) and He loves us all anyway. We would appreciate your prayers, too. I really do care about how you all are and, if there is anything affecting you that you would appreciate our prayers about, please let me know. (It's better to call me, so we can talk person to person).

God bless you,
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