

**AUGUST
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



PRESIDENT'S NOTES

I hope that all of you that attended our last reunion in Mobile had as good a time as I did. I would like to thank everyone who helped make this reunion a great success. The tours were great, for those of you that did not attend, we watched the Blue Angels practice at the Pensacola NAS and visited the National Naval Museum also at Pensacola NAS, we also visited the USS ALABAMA Battleship Park, and a tour of the city. We welcomed two new members at the reunion; they were William & Dolores Kirsch and Sam McCammons. The 2016 reunion will be in Washington, DC. All the tours are not yet set, but are being worked on. The dates for the Washington, DC reunion are 9-13 June 2016 for four nights.

"PLEASE PAY YOU DUES".

Always be on the lookout for new members, you might find them at the VFW or American Legion Clubs or at the Shopping Mall.

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

USS POWER DD 839 OFFICERS

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

STAFF:

Master-At-Arms - Eric Barnes
Storekeeper - Jim Brocklebank
Assistant Chaplain - Michael Farrens
Chaplain - Dewey Ray
Webmaster - Brian Spaulding

WHAT'S INSIDE	
PAGE 1 OFFICERS	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 NOTES:

Greetings Fellow Shipmates and Powerful Ladies.....

Great time in Mobile, AL. at the 2015 Navy reunion. Once again thanks to John & Kay Pinto for all you do. As always it was good to be together with shipmates and their wives. Next year in Washington D.C. should be a good time. I am really looking forward to our next reunion. Hope we have a really good turnout, let's all try to do our best at getting old and new members, family and Friends to attend. Have you thanked a Veteran or have you yourself been thanked? I was on the beach in Florida this Spring and a young boy came up to me and said "Thank you for your service!" We were wondering how he knew I was a Vet because all I had on was my swim trunks. We asked him and he said he saw my dog tag. Pretty sharp young lad!

Don't forget to fly the U.S. flag on the following days.

Labor Day 1st. Monday in Sept.

Constitution Day Sept. 17

Columbus Day Oct.12 .

Navy Day -Oct. 27

Veteran's Day - Nov. 11th.

Ed Chartrand, Sr. Vice President

JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT NOTES:

HI SHIPMATES,

WELL, HERE WE ARE AGAIN-ANOTHER HOT SUMMER UPON US. IT IS EVEN HOTTER THAN USUAL FOR US BECAUSE WE ARE NOW BACK IN LEXINGTON, S.C. WE APPARENTLY HAD FORGOTTEN HOW HOT IT IS HERE IN THE SUMMER. HOT AND HUMID BUT WE LOVE IT HERE ANYWAY.WE HAD A GREAT REUNION IN MOBILE THIS PAST SPRING AND WE THINK THAT EVERYONE ELSE DID ALSO. MOBILE IS A LOVELY LITTLE CITY AND WE WOULD GO BACK AGAIN.IT SEEMS THAT FROM ALL ACCOUNTS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REUNION WAS THE SHIPYARD TRIP. THE OPERATION AND HOSPITALITY WAS WONDERFUL IT SEEMS AND WE ARE SORRY WE DID NOT ATTEND. EVERYTHING ELSE WAS FIRST CLASS. THIS, LARGELY DUE TO THE MUCH APPRECIATED EFFORTS, ONCE AGAIN, OF JOHN PINTO. THANKS AGAIN JOHN. WE ARE ALLREADY LOOKING FORWARD TO THE WASHINGTON AREA REUNION NEXT JUNE. THIS IS A GOOD TIME OF THE YEAR,WEATHER WISE,TO VISIT D.C. BUT THERE WILL ALSO BE A LARGE NUMBER OF TOURISTS THERE AT THAT TIME. NEEDLESS TO SAY THERE ARE MANY THINGS TO SEE AND DO THERE. MANY MORE THAN THE USUAL SIGHTS. I THINK THAT THE GREATEST DIFFICULTY WILL BE IN SORTING THROUGH THE MYRIAD OF VENUES BUT I THINK THAT THE SELECTIONS WILL BE AS USUAL, OUTSTANDING.WE ACTUALLY PLAN TO SPEND A FEW ADDITIONAL DAYS IN THE AREA TO SEE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT WE HAVEN'T SEEN BEFORE. THIS WILL BE SPECIAL FOR US BECAUSE WE BOTH LIVED IN THE AREA FOR QUITE A FEW YEARS-IN A PREVIOUS LIFE AND CENTURY WE DO HOPE THAT WE WILL GET MORE ATTENDEES NEXT TIME. I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL HAVE A GOOD TURNOUT MAINLY BECAUSE OF THE AREA AND THE FACT THAT WE WILL BE IN A MORE NORTHEAST LOCATION THIS TIME. LETS ALL TRY TO CONTACT 2 OR 3 SHIPMATES THAT WE KNOW OF WHO HAVE NOT ATTENDED FOR AWHILE AND ASK OR CAJOLE THEM INTO ATTENDING.LETS ALL REMAIN IN GOOD HEALTH AND HAVE A GREAT REMINDER OF THE SUMMER..

John Goricki Jr. Vice President



FROM THE DESK OF THE
SECRETARY ROBERT PULASKI

Shipmates:

Our 19th Reunion is now History, and a good time was had by all. MANY THANKS TO John & Kay Pinto for a job well done. The weather was great and we had a good attendance. As a reminder we need new members. If each one of us makes at least 1 contact I am sure we could add to our membership.

Happy & Healthy Summer to All.

Bob Pulaski



USS POWER LADIES AUXILIARY

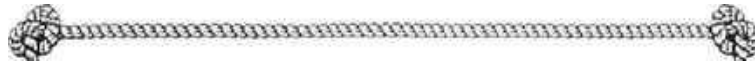
USS POWERFUL LADIES AUXILIARY.....

Just want to say what a good time we had in Mobile, AL. at the 2015 reunion. We had a few glitches with the breakfast menu but other than that the tours set up by John & Kay Pinto were great. They did another great job setting up the hotel, shuttle buses etc. We went to the Pensacola Florida Naval Museum to see the Navy Blue Angels to Mobile Bay to see the USS Alabama Battleship Park to Pascagoula, Ms. to tour the Ingalls Ship Building Yard to see them building the newest destroyers and LPD ships. For me the highlight was the Blue Angels practice demos and when they are in formation they are only 18" from each other. I also loved the American Legion Alabama Post 250 posting the colors and playing taps at our dinner dance. Thanks to Jim, Jo Bob, Ted, Ron and Larry the Bugler. Thanks to all you made or purchased door prizes for our dinner dance. Have you thanked a Veteran today? Please bring your husband's photo so we can add it to our "Wall of Heroes/Honor" It is never to early to plan our 2016 reunion to the Washington D.C area. Invite your family and friends and most importantly your shipmates that you have not seen since you left the ship and go down memory lane with them. Have a great summer.

Mary Lou Chartrand, Chairwomen
www.edandlou27@sbcglobal.net



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Welcome Shipmates, Ladies of the Power & Guest:



I would like to thank all those who attended the Mobile Alabama Reunion this year. For the most part I would say it was a good reunion, there were a few problems with breakfast vouchers each morning and the quality of food and selection. I was in contact with the new General Manager of the Holiday Inn Mobile Airport after writing a review of our stay at the Hotel online. I received a reply that they were aware of the situation. They sent there apologies in the form of a check (\$1134.00)made out to our organization for any inconvenience we may have incurred. We have put the funds back in to our Treasury. We will discuss at the next Executive board meeting on how we can best use these funds. Any suggestions will be welcome. We also had some confusion at the Welcome Aboard Buffet But after Carl Burnham and myself spoke with the catering manager Greg he did make up for it big time at the Banquet Dinner which was great with one exception the DJ. This was a case of Murphy's Law "If anything can go wrong, it will" We did get a refund of \$400.00 which we will use to get a Karaoke Machine for our next function and find some new talent. My apologies to all. It is time to start thinking about our 20th reunion in Washington DC. & seeking out new shipmates to join us. Lets make this reunion one of the best. I have been



working on setting up tours for Washington DC. I have been in contact with Nancy Barras and she has given me lots of information on Washington DC area tours. Arlington National Cemetery & Mount Vernon Mansion have been top of the list along with Monuments & Memorials. You can tour on your own Sunday and visit other sites of your choosing. The Metro is close by and you can take it to Union Station and take the Hop Off Hop On or just walk. Check with the Front desk about taking the shuttle to the Metro Station .There is so much to see and you won't be able to see it all on one trip to DC. As John Goricki said he is staying a few day's after the reunion to see things he has never seen. This will be my first time to Washington DC. and I am looking forward to seeing all the Monuments. Everything in Washington is expensive especially tours. I tried to use a tour company to set up the tours for us but I wasn't happy with the price and the contract. So as usual I will do it on my own to keep cost down and get the most out of it. I hope I don't burn everyone out. I have been working on it for three weeks finally putting things together, hopefully we will get to do most of what I have put together for you. We will be securing Motor Coach's / Guide / Tours and tickets and putting deposits down to guarantee that we get the first choice and time slot. There is a Questionnaire Form insert, please fill it out and send it in so we have an idea of the numbers. This will tell us if we have the numbers. Check our website for info on the reunion or my website : www.usspowerdd839.com for any updates. Lets make this our 20th reunion the best ever. Invite your family and friends they can make it a vacation. I have invited my son & daughter and family to attend. The hotel is giving us a welcome reception a one hour wine cheese and fruit, I hope it is better then the last one we had, but it did get better. Also we will be raffling off a free room night at the Banquet Dinner. I will also get in touch with an American Legion Color Guard as we did at the last reunion I think it was a nice touch.

Safe Trip To Reunion

John Pinto

19 Men

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

Karachi, Pakistan

Some of us may still have a yellow and blue wallet sized card with the flags of five nations on it. Its wording states; CENTO SEA POWER MIDLINK V a combined operation with the CENTO NATIONS from the 10th to the 23rd of November 1962. On the back it lists the names of 26 vessels from Iran, Pakistan, United Kingdom and the United States. This was the primary reason the U.S.S. Power was in the Arabian Sea, Red Sea, and Indian Ocean from 31 October 1962 to 1 January 1963. From the south end of the Suez Canal we sailed through the Red Sea. We turned East in the Gulf of Aden and steamed NNE through the Arabian Sea to Karachi, Pakistan approximately 3200 miles. Once there we tied up at a wharf running on both sides of a channel four miles downstream from the city. It was 9 November 1962. Our individual impressions of this place will vary yet I'll bet to this day it remains one of, if not the strangest cultures we had ever experienced. Pakistan came in to being with the breakup of British India on 15 August 1947. When we were there it was only fifteen years old. Our first impressions were ones of shock at the grinding poverty seen right from the deck of the ship. A man walking up and down in front of the ship whose left ankle and leg were as big as my thigh - elephantitis. Little children as young as three and four, clad in rags, wandering up and down on the wharf begging for food. Also, that first day we discovered some of the greatest tide variations we'd ever seen, upward of ten feet. This created some unique problems. Double rat guard was put on the mooring lines and the deck watch was doubled. For at slack tide the main deck was well below the surface of the wharf and the rat infested scaffolding right there. I stood these deck watches and to this day wonder how I was to stop a leaping Norway rat armed only with a shore patrol billy club. On Sunday the 11th the Pakistani Navy sent an invitation to the ship for 25 men to attend a tea party to commemorate the four navy gathering for the exercise. I was one of them. We went by bus to a large auditorium. Inside sailors, all enlisted, from the four navies were milling around a horseshoe arrangement of tables loaded with pastries. We were served tea along with banana cakes and about six other kinds of baked goodies. A Chief in the Pakistani Navy then gave a short speech on fellowship among sailors. Once this was over we were treated to a magic show. My letter records I was most impressed by the magician stopping his pulse and heart beat with guys from the audience brought up to verify it. Over the years my only vivid memory was of him reaching in his suit coat pocket and pulling out a fishbowl with a goldfish swimming around in it! In the course of this gala event I met an Englishman who invited me aboard his ship for a few beers. Once aboard the H.M.S. Loch Ruthven I discovered the vast difference between the Royal Navy and ours. We arrived at the end of the evening meal. Their meals were brought to the berthing compartments. Tables and benches set up, the meal eaten when done the pots, pans, trays, etc. were whisked back to the galley, tables and benches stowed. And the evening began. Beer was brought out from somewhere. What we call cases they called crates and there were several. If I recall correctly one had to buy his beer, it wasn't free. I stayed from 6:00 to 9:30 (1800 to 2130 for those purest still among us) and met many Englishmen and Scotsmen. I learned they were still entitled to a daily grog ration but many of them didn't take it. They teased me about being in the only "dry" navy in the world that wasn't Muslim. They invited me back the next day and ask I bring a buddy. Their ship was tied up across the channel from ours. To walk back would require going about a half mile to a bridge then back even further to where the Power was tied up. So they had their motor whale boat bring me back to the ship. The next day I and a shipmate named Tylsen returned to this British Frigate. While we didn't consume as much beer as the night before we had a roaring good time telling stories, answering questions, telling jokes and even singing songs. Some of the Scotsmen laughed themselves to tears over the fact we could not understand but about every fifth word they said when they talked fast. Claiming all the time we were the ones who couldn't speak English. This time chauffeured us back to our ship in the Captain's Gig. The duty Coxswain procured it with no problem. A proper bow man with his long hooked pole was posted standing at the peak of the bow. A couple of our slightly inebriated friends came along for the ride. We had to leave the gig under the ship's bow. As we did so we saw some commotion on the quarter deck. When we came aboard and saluted the O.D. there also stood the XO. He told us to get below in a not overly friendly voice. Someone had reported the gig coming and must have assumed it was the Captain of the H.M.S. Loch Ruthven. By this time we had been in port five days and had yet to start the exercises. Shocked as we were by the poverty we saw some of the crew took it upon themselves to do something. They brought one of the beggar boys aboard the ship the first day we were there. Here I'll quote from my letter. He is as little as can be his arms at the shoulder about as big as three of my fingers. The crew gave him a shower and fed him. Then they took some old clothes, cut them down and sewed them to fit. Various men did these tasks, and the whole crew took to him. He runs about the ship having the time of his life. He has no mother or father he knows of nor does he know his age. He looks to be about five or six.

They won't allow him to stay aboard at night and each night he cries when he leaves. But before the sun is up he is back in the morning. The night before watch I had the pier watch when he had to go ashore. He sat at the gangway awhile and I spoke to him. He had a torn piece of sheet and said it was his bed". I asked where he would sleep. He replied "over there pointing at some old shack near a rubble heap. He is only one of many and rather lucky at that for while we're here he'll be looked after." On 14 November we left port for the CENTO exercises. The little boy was given a box of food before we left. As the mooring lines were being gathered in he managed to get a couple of oranges and apples before his companions took the rest. The sea exercises were what we expected. Night and day General Quarters drills, fast maneuvering with the screws shaking the fantail, refueling, etc. It was truly an international exercise for at one refueling exercise it was a British tanker refueling us and a Pakistani Navy destroyer. On the evening of the 17th there was a night firing operation. It was a memorable sight to see. First one 5" mount would fire what was known as a "star shell" which illuminated the sky when it burst. Then the other mount shoots at a tow target in this light. There were eight ships in a line doing this. As we were one of the first we got to watch the rest. First the flash from the gun barrel, then a few seconds later the burst of white light followed by firing at the tow. A star shell was fired every five seconds so the sky was lit up all the time by four to six shells. We were back in Karachi for Thanksgiving Day on the 22nd. Tlysen and I had invited our English friends to our ship for dinner that day but as often happen they had the duty and couldn't attend. To this day I have my British white hat with its band H.M.S. Loch Ruthven. That afternoon I went with QM 2nd Class Donald E. Cook and Seaman First Class MacKenzie to the Merchants Seamen's Club in town to shoot pool. We had this large poolroom to ourselves with only two Japanese merchant seamen accompanying us. You didn't need to rack the balls, chalk your cue, select a different cue or get a drink. All this was performed by a man sitting on a high chair along one wall. You tipped him when you left. This was followed by a few drinks at the Metro pole Hotel rounding out our Thanksgiving. All the Cento operations concluded on the 23rd and we were back at sea on the 25th headed for Colombo, Ceylon over 1300 miles south of where we were. Over the years that little boy the crew befriended sometimes comes to mind. And I'm still moved by what our crew did for him.

Daniel B. Tagtmayer

2015 Reunion Mobile , AL.
Two Bell Ceremony
For Our Departed Shipmates
Chaplains Dewey Ray & Mike Farrens



We thank them both for their service to our Association for the time they put in.
I ask you all to pray for Dewey Ray that he will overcome his affliction.

USS Power DD-839 Website

<http://www.USSPowerDD839.org>

Free upgrade Windows 10 is for users of Windows 7 and later. You may already have seen a notification icon in your taskbar with the new Windows logo, from which you can reserve your upgrade. If not, you can head to Microsoft's Windows 10 Upgrade page to register. Good update, but takes some getting used to.

Fair winds, Brian Spaulding

JIM BROCKLEBANK, Treasure /Storekeeper

My input for newsletter August:

Hope all are having a good summer, very hot here in Alabama. Have received a new supply of blue ball caps in the ships store. Will be ordering blue shirts to resupply the ships store shortly. After all the final expenses were taken care we have a balance of \$5,409 in our checking account. No other expenses coming up soon. Have a good summer.



Jim Brocklebank Treasure/Storekeeper

POWER JACKET

A LIGHT WEIGHT 100% NYLON LINING JACKET. GREAT FOR COOL DAYS & NIGHTS

**PRICE: \$30
FOR S THRU XXL
INCLUDING SHIPPING**

JIM BROCKLEBANK, Treasure /Storekeeper

E-MAIL: JB3536@YAHOO.COM PHONE: (205) 758-2725

LOT'S OF ITEMS FOR SALE ! GO TO: WWW.USSPOWERDD839.ORG

Dear Shipmates,

Though I'm a **Plank Owner** and a member of Shipmates for 18 years, my first reunion was in Jacksonville. I have been around the world at least twice, visited more than 30 countries, slid down the Arapahoe Glacier on my rear end and had a very exciting life, but I consider the reunion near the top. I never wore a cap, but I was so proud to be associated with those I met at the reunion, I bought one, have worn it every day since. I live at the North Florida Retirement Village, and every day someone approaches me about the ship, and the navy Is it true? There are only 7 known plank owners left. Very possible, since the ship was launched 70 years ago when I was 21, so all the original shipmates would have to be 90 or older.... or deceased. I'm chagrined beyond reason, that I didn't make it to the Mobile reunion. I confused the dates, but if the Lord is willing, I'll be there for the next one. Do I get to cut the cake with a 3-foot saber again, if I'm the oldest?

William (Bill) Barker
2630 NW 82nd Street
Gainesville, FL 32606
352 377 9562
352 375 6680 (fax)

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



«Address Block»

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Dear Shipmates,

This is something personal from your Chaplain that is difficult to share. In June, I was diagnosed with stage 4 renal cell carcinoma, metastasized to the lymph nodes and bones. The doctor says there is no cure, the prognosis without treatment - 6 months or less; with chemo (pills) - less than a year. I have chosen not to do chemo. The doctors say that this type of cancer typically is not discovered until it is already stage 4 (metastasized) and found "accidentally" when checking out other health issues such as we did when we returned home from the reunion this spring. I know God can heal me completely, but we want His will in my life. I am ready to meet my maker, but it is very hard for my family. I also know God can make good come from a bad thing. My request to my doctors is to help me stay mobile as long as I can and as pain free as possible. I am still slightly mobile (under my own power). I have been able to witness to many friends, acquaintances and strangers that the most important thing is for them to have a personal relationship with Christ, their savior and to be ready to enter the pearly gates. They all, even strangers and "agnostic" friends care very much and say they will and are praying for me. I pray that each one of my shipmates and their families will accept and know Jesus Christ as their personal savior. Please pray for me for strength to endure whatever I have to and even for complete healing. Thank you. It has been a pleasure to serve you as your Chaplain and I cherish our friendship together.

Home ph: 607-533-4700.
cell ph: 607-229-3146.
Email: deweypower@comcast.net

May God Bless you,
Chaplain Dewey Ray

