

**DECEMBER
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



DUES ARE NOW DUE FOR 2016 \$20.00 MAKE CHECK OUT TO: USS POWER DD 839 ASSOC.
SEND TO : BOB PULASKI
43 SEA LN. PALMETTO DUNES
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC. 29928

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Summer has come to an end and the weather is turning cold. Now we need to prepare for winter and start thinking about our next reunion in Washington, DC in June 2016. There are many tours that can be taken in Washington, DC, including Arlington National Cemetery, Iwo Jima, Korean War, World War II, Vietnam Veterans, Lincoln, Jefferson, Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorials, Washington Monument, White House, Capital Building, US Navy Memorial, Washington's Mount Vernon and many others. Some of these you may want to visit on your own.

"PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES". When you are out at the shopping malls or at the American Legion or VFW Clubs or any other military organizations look for people wearing military jackets or hats maybe you will find someone that served on the USS POWER, sign them up. We extend our sincere sympathy to Elsie Ray and family on the loss of one of our own, Dewey Ray. Dewey always stepped up to the plate to help out in any way he could in whatever we needed help with in the organization at our reunions. He kept the hospitality room running day and night and he served as our chaplain always showing concern and compassion for our shipmates and their families. He will be greatly missed by all those of us who had the privilege of knowing him.

Carl P. Burnham, President
USS POWERS (DD 839) Association
9185 Ogden Street
Omaha, NE 68134
PH: (402) 571-1865
e-mail: 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
Chaplain - Michael Farrens
Webmaster - Brian Spaulding
Newsletter— John Pinto

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SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT NOTES:

Greetings Fellow Shipmates and Powerful Ladies.....

I hope everyone is in good health. The weather here is changing as another season comes to an end. What's around the corner I hate to think about, but complaining about the weather never changed anything. Veteran's Day has past and a busy one it was, a visit to Mary Lou's high school one day and elementary school on another with the V.F.W. color guard. At the high school Veteran's and all local posts were honored, over at the elementary school we had a flag raising ceremony. Both had a question and answering session in which I was impressed with the students many questions and their honor and respect they showed us. Veteran's Day our V.F.W. had the honor of firing the rifles in front of our hometown courthouse with a good size crowd of Joliet's residences and of course all the local politicians. Following the ceremonies it was a tour of the surrounding V.F.W.'s and American Legion's for free food, drinks and camaraderie. It is one great day to feel the pride of being a Veteran. In about 6 months we will be preparing to attend our reunion in Washington, D.C. I look forward to seeing everyone once more. I'm sure it will be a fantastic trip with great tours, thanks to John and Kay.

Ed Chartrand, Sr. Vice president

A QUOTE from ABRAHAM LINCOLN..... Honor to the Sailor and Soldier everywhere, who bravely bears his country's cause. Honor, also to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can the same cause.

Note: If Shipmates coming to the reunion alone that maybe 2 shipmates could share a room? It would be less expensive and maybe they would come to the reunion, If interested in sharing a room at any time contact John Pinto he will set it up.

JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT

Hi Shipmates,

Julia and I spent 7 weeks away from home recently. We were in Delft, Holland for 7 weeks and loved Holland. The Dutch make it very easy because mostly all of them speak English. We loved the markets, two vegetable, fish and meat & cheese markets each week, and one antiques market. We spent several days a week just wandering around the markets. After Holland we hired a car and traveled through Belgium, France and into Spain. We then spent several days in Barcelona with John and Kay Pinto and Jill and Sam. We all had a great time and then did a 14 day cruise back to Florida. We are glad to be back home.

We were saddened to hear about Dewey Ray's passing. He will be missed by the USS Power Association. He always acted as one of our ministers at meetings and was in charge of getting our meeting room ready, along with making coffee. We never passed an old tractor without thinking of Dewey and one of us would remark "Lets call Dewey". My prayers go out to Elsie and all of Dewey's family.

I am looking forward to our next reunion in Washington, D.C., I hope you are planning on attending, and hopefully finding some new people to attend. We would love to have your family and friends attend.

Merry Christmas
John Goricki





FROM THE DESK OF THE
SECRETARY ROBERT PULASKI

Shipmates:

The holidays will soon be upon us. Christmas trees, Santa Claus & presents, and then the New Year ringing out the old to bringing in the new. A wonderful time for family & friends. But the New Year also means our yearly dues. Remember its only \$20.00 & still the same for nineteen years. If you can, please send in your dues now and its one less check you have to write when all the holidays bills come in.

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year to All

Bob Pulaski
Secty



USS POWER DD 839

POWERFUL* LADIES* AUXILIARY

CHAIRWOMAN

Mary Lou Chartrand
edandlou27@sbcglobal.net
815-744-3978

SECRETARY

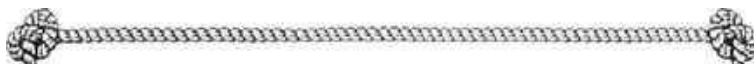
Julia Goricki
goricjul@aol.com
803-356-6138

USS POWERFUL LADIES AUXILIARY..... Another holiday season is coming up fast, Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year to our Powerful Ladies and USS Power Shipmates. We are saving \$\$\$ and making plans to go to the Washington D.C. area for our reunion in 2016. We have family members out East and plan to visit them before and after the reunion. We will have a "Welcome Aboard Dinner" on our 1st. night there with a patriotic theme. Come dressed in your best red, white and blue attire; maybe we will have George & Martha Washington attending the reunion! There will be a prize for the best male and female attire. I hope to have bingo after the welcome aboard dinner. We will have our yearly ladies meeting same time and day as the men. Bring your ideas to help support our veterans. Now is a good time to put your photo albums together and they would be a great Christmas gift to give to your sailor and also bring the album to the reunions. Don't forget our: "Wall of Honor" Bring a photo of your sailor in uniform and if you are in the photo even better. A 5 X 7 works best but any size will do. Please put the name, rank and years they were in the Navy. We will put the photos up in the Hospitality Room year after year. If you cannot come to the reunion please mail the photo to me with all the information would you like to help our USO? If you buy Marie Callender's frozen foods and dessert packages please look for special marked packages. Go to their website on the pkg. there is an 8 digit code and 1 code = 1 donation by Jan. 29, 2016. Invite your family and friends and see if your sailor would call or e-mail his former shipmate to come to our reunion. From our previous tours that John & Kay Pinto have set up for us it will be a great time. On our last night of the reunion is our dinner dance. Would you donate a door prize either homemade or store brought? It would be greatly appreciated. Have you thanked a Vet today and every day?

Mary Lou Chartrand, Chairman
606 Edgebrook Drive
Shorewood, IL. 60404



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Welcome Shipmates :

It has been a year of a feeling of deep distress caused by loss of our shipmates Lou House, Manny Alvarez and our chaplain Dewey Ray . We have had a memorial ceremony at our last reunion for Lou House at our Two Bell Ceremony in Mobile Alabama. We will hold a memorial in Washington DC. at our 2016 reunion in June for both shipmates Manny Alvarez and Chaplain Dewey Ray. Our secretary Bob Pulaski has sent money for a Mass from him and the USS Power Assn. shipmates. Five masses will be celebrated for Manny next year on Saturdays at 5:30pm. All these masses will be celebrated in the name of (Bob Pulaski)& his shipmates of the USS Power. He was very proud of his service to the nation and his shipmates. He mentioned very often the friendship between his shipmates. He is going to be missed terribly. Bob served with Manny along with Nick Giancola back in the 50's. We felt in the passing of our chaplain Dewey Ray we should also do something for him. It was approved by our President Carl Burnham and again Bob Pulaski has made all the arrangements to have a memorial honoring Duane "Dewey " Ray during the morning service of 11/8/15 at Asbury Church at 10:40am by Pastor David Quigley to include his family members to remember him. Dewey will be missed he was a good friend and was always there to help out in making the coffee in the hospitality room or keeping the beer & soda cold and holding our two bell ceremony and our prayer before our Banquet dinners. He suffers no more, he goes on his way with our other fallen shipmates whom have fallen before him. We pray for him on his journey.

It is now time to make your reservation for the Shipmates 20th reunion in Washington, DC. Area at the Crowne Plaza Washington Dulles Airport. call 703-471-6700 for dates June 9-13, 2016 and tell them your are with the USS POWER ASSN. room block. Check out the website for more detailed info in *john's info* chairman's report* john's website. There is an insert to fill out Function Form on your tour choice and Banquet Dinner choice. Pay your dues and get your form in on time so we don't have to cancel any of the tours. We have put down deposits and if we have to cancel we want to get our deposit back, you have a large choice of things to do & see by group tours or on your own. Some are a security issue and we are unable to do some tours. You can look over the Plan of the Day on the website telling all planned events. If you need any more info e-mail me and I will answer any questions or concern you may have. I want to thank those who gave info and suggestion in setting up tours.

I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year

Safe Trip To Reunion

John Pinto
jpinto839@gmail.com

Diving duty

Sailor made underwater repairs

VETERANS' VOICES

KOREAN WAR

By ANDE YAKSTIS

For The Telegraph

Navy diver Herman M. Hechler dove into dangerous waters to repair ships involved in battles in the Korean War.

Hechler descended into the murky waters of Tokyo Bay to repair a vital gasoline line that supplied fuel to U.S. fighter planes attacking the enemy in Korea.

"I wore a 200-pound diving suit, helmet and a long hose that supplied air to me as I dove deep into the water," the 85-year-old Navy veteran said.

Vice Admiral J.J. Clark, commander of the Navy Seventh Fleet, awarded Hechler's ship, the USS Safeguard, a citation for meritorious service for repairing the broken gas line on the bottom of Tokyo Bay.

"The successful repair of the aviation gas line was vital to the support of our aircraft on their assigned missions in Korea," Clark said in honoring the crew of the USS Safeguard.

Hechler is proud of his naval service on a minesweeper and destroyer in World War II and serving as a Navy diver in the Korean War.

Hechler was an 18-year-old graduate of Alton High School when he entered the Navy in 1944 at the height of World War II. He is the son of Mary and Herman O. Hechler, who retired after 46 years in the machine shop of Owens-Illinois Glass Co. in Alton. He has two sisters, Florence Marks and Juanita Dawdy.

In World War II, Hechler completed



PLANKOWNER SERVED ABOARD USS POWER DD 839 1945 TO 1946

The Telegraph/DAN BRANNAN

Herman M. Hechler, 85, served as a Navy diver in the Korean War. He helped repair an underwater line that supplied fuel to U.S. fighter planes.

ing at the Navy's training center at Norfolk, Va. He was assigned to the USS YMS 447, a minesweeper guarding the shores of New York from Nazi submarines.

In September 1944, Hechler's ship was struck with 140-mph winds from the historic Great Atlantic Hurricane.

"Waves 70 feet high swept over our ship," said Hechler, who stood on the bridge of the ship. "Our ship was made of wood so it wouldn't be detected by underwater steel mines of the enemy. In the high waves the ship nearly turned over on its side."

The ship made it safe through the hurricane to the shore.

"Our ship was given

to the Russian navy as a minesweeper and I went aboard a destroyer, the USS Powers," he said.

Hechler was discharged from the Navy in 1946 and continued as a member of the naval reserves.

When the Korean War started in 1950, he was called back to Navy duty and trained as an expert diver at the Bayonne Naval Base Salvage School.

On the USS Safeguard, Hechler dove into murky waters to help cut loose the USS Benjamin, which was stuck on a dike at Pohang, Korea.

In one dangerous dive in December, water leaked into his glove and filled his diving suit with ice cold water.

"Water was up to my chest in the diving suit and I was freezing," said Hechler, who made it safely to his ship.

Once he dove into the water to find a ship's lost anchor and touched a 350-pound enemy sea mine loaded with explosives.

"It was risky, but we were able to get our ship away from the deadly mine," he said.

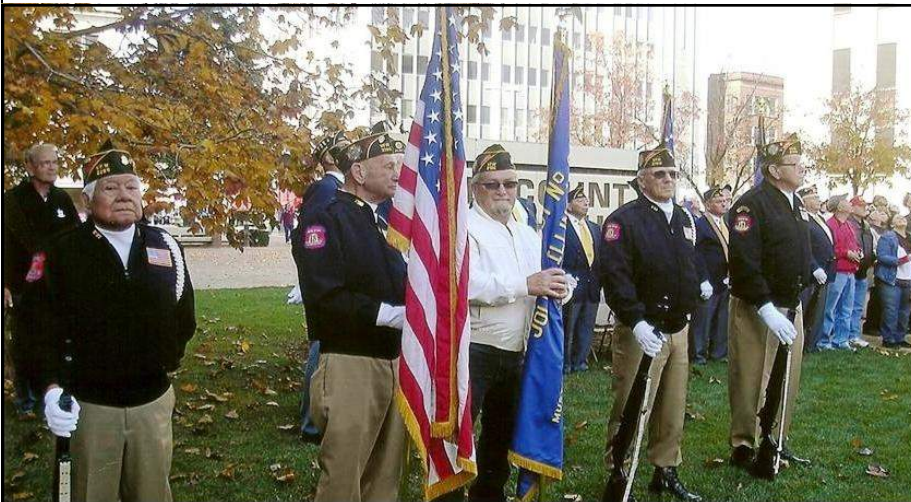
Hechler and his wife, Mary, have been married 47 years. They are proud of daughter, Jean, four granddaughters, one great-grandson and two great-granddaughters.

"The grandchildren are a blessing in our lives," he said.

On his shirt collar, Hechler wears the distinguished insignia of an expert Navy diver.

March 29, 2010

Send your WWII Veterans' Voices Ideas to Telegraph Executive Editor Dan Brannan, P.O. Box 278,



Veterans Day Ceremony 11-11-15 Downtown Joliet Courthouse
VFW Stone City Color Guard-Ed Chartrand 2nd from right

A Note From The Classon Home

Article One

"Start Of A Sailor's Life"

They give you a number and take your name,
They hand you a ticket and put you on a train,
It leaves the station and heads for Chi,
You're in the hub, so please don't cry.

You arrive at the "Lakes" with spirits high,
There you'll meet a real big guy.
He lines you up in some sort of formation
And marches you to the Receiving Station.

Here you are scorned or admired.
This is where you begin your fight.
You fill out forms til your head gets tired.
You're run through lines from mom til night.

They give you a comb, then cut off your hair.
They give you a tooth brush then pull out your teeth.
They stick you with needles here and there.
They poke you all over from foot to hair.

You get your clothes which are much too big,
And get a rack, a rifle, and some other rig.
You're assigned a Chief to give you training.
You're ready to start "Boots" with little complaining.

As the days and the weeks roll swiftly by,
You're taught the ways and means of the sea.
You're taught to keep your head up high.
You're taught what a sailor ought to be.

After fourteen weeks you're ready to depart,
A salty life you are ready to start.
You pack your sea bag with zest and glee,
Away the hook and set sail for the sea.

Now you are a sailor through and through.
You feel proud and smart in your suit of blue.
You really rate a hearty "Well Done".
Just keep up the good work and the battle is won.



was the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
in a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give,
and to see just who in this home did live.
I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand,
and on the wall pictures of far distant lands.
With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,
a sobering thought came to my mind.
For this house was different, so dark and so dreary,
the home of a soldier, now I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,
not how I pictured a United States soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night,
owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.
Soon round the world, the children would play,
and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas eve in a land far from home.
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;

I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
my life is my God, my country, my corps."
The soldier rolled over and soon drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,
and we both shivered from the cold evening's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night,
this guardian of honor so willing to fight.
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,
whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas day, all is secure."
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right.
"Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night."

By Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt

Happy Holidays



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

USS Power DD-839 Website

<http://www.USSPowerDD839.org>

Webmaster : Brian Spaulding "Secrets of the Control Panel"

<http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,2817,2483646,00.asp?> "Vets: Check out www.Defense.com

I signed up with my new Apple 6 Cell.... \$10.00 discount for life for being a Legion member (Same if you're VFW) Plans offer more data for fewer \$\$\$\$. The idea of a vet; administered by vets. Works great. Busier than a one armed paper hanger!

Merry Christmas



JIM BROCKLEBANK, Treasure /Storekeeper

E-MAIL: JB3536@YAHOO.COM

PHONE:

(205) 758-2725

LOT'S OF ITEMS FOR SALE ! Go To:

WWW.USSPOWERDD839.ORG

POWER JACKET

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

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

Treasures Report :

Dues are starting-to trickle in and checking account balance at this time is **\$4716.00** Remember dues are payable by the end of December. Membership cards will be mailed out with the newsletters for the year of 2016. Any dues paid after the newsletter comes out will be sent with the next issue in April 2016.

Storekeepers Report :

I have received a new order of blue shirts to replace stock sold at last reunion. Jackets are no longer available. All items are shown on our website for ordering. Wishing all shipmates a great holiday season and a great New Year for 2016.



In Memory of

Manuel J. Alvarez Jr.

December 9, 1932 - July 29, 2015

Served Aboard : USS POWER DD 839 – 8/51-5/55 BT3

Obituary

Manuel J. Alvarez Jr. (Manny) 82, of Barnegat, NJ, formerly of Schenectady, NY and Waldwick NJ entered into rest on July 29, 2015. Manny is survived by his ex-wife Jean Sheldon: he is remembered with love by his companion Teresa Romano: his children David and his wife Cathy, Susan & her husband Ken, Michael, Thomas & his wife Carla, Joseph & his wife Erica and Steven & his wife Wendy: his 12 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren: his brothers John Alvarez and the late James Alvarez: and several nieces & nephews. Manny served his country proudly in the United States Navy. He worked for Hackensack Water which is now United Water where he was former President on their Union. Manny was also a member of the Waldwick VFW. Visitation will be held on Sunday from 4-8 PM at Becker Funeral Home. The family will meet their relatives and friends on Monday at 10AM at The Church of the Nativity, Midland Park, NJ for a funeral mass. Interment to follow at Maryrest Cemetery, Mahwah, NJ. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Manny may be made to The American Heart Association .

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

Served Aboard : USS POWER DD 839– 3/63-3/65-SFM3 Chaplain : USS POWER DD 839 ASSOCIATION



Duane " Dewey " Ray, age 71 of Lansing, NY experienced unspeakable joy as he entered heaven on October 6, 2015 after a short battle at home with kidney cancer. He was predeceased by : his parents, Chester N. and Elizabeth K. (Sager) Ray; stepmother, Olive E. (Terry) Ray; foster parents, Eugene B. and Helen (Mapes) Atwater; and foster sister, Catherine M. Atwater. He is survived by his wife Elsie J. (White) Ray; children, E. Susan (Dan) Scarinzi and Duane D. (Terry Ann) Ray; sisters Sharon J. (Ray) Martinos and Marie I. (Ray) Scarinzi; brother, Terry D. Ray; grandchildren, Isaac J. and Cassiah J. Ray, Brandan L. and Molli R. Scarinzi. He is also survived by several cousins, nephews, a niece, and many dear extended family members and friends. He graduated from Lansing High School in 1962. Dewey was proud to be a U.S. Navy Veteran, serving from 1962-66,

where he acquired his training as a welder, plumber, and steamfitter, his occupation until retirement. Since around 2002 he has served as first the Asst. Chaplain, and later Chaplain for his Navy shipmates reunion association. He was a founding member, treasurer, deacon and usher for many years at Asbury Church in Lansing. His life hobbies were Jeeping, RC airplanes, tractors, travelling, the Sun 'N Fun air show in FL, Navy ship reunions and "coffee klatches" at Mc Donald's. He shared a very fond affection for each of his beloved dogs. Above all he loved God, family and friends. His mission in life was to serve God and help others find Christ as their personal Savior. A memorial service honoring Jesus Christ and His work in his life will be held on Friday, October 16, 2015 at Asbury Church, Lansing, NY at 2 pm., followed by a memorial reception at 4:30 pm. at Lansing United Methodist Church for friends and family. Donations may be made to Asbury Church or Hospicare of Ithaca.