

**DECEMBER
2018**

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 R NOW DUE

PRESIDENTS NOTES

Greetings Fellow Shipmates & Powerful Ladies..... Here we are on the doorstep of another Illinois winter. It's currently 29 degrees with snow flurries but there is a light at the end of the tunnel. In 30 days we'll be headed to Florida. Once again looking forward to another great reunion in St. Louis. It may seem a long way off but already plans are being laid out. On the way home from Florida last Spring we stopped in St. Louis to meet John & Kay Pinto to check on hotels. The Double Tree Hotel was selected and I think everyone will be pleased, it's very spacious and well laid out. The Hospitality Room is very accommodating. Besides our tours there are a lot of interesting places to go, things to see and I'm told a lot of great food. Did you know St. Louis is known to consume more BBQ sauce per capita than any other American city? Call, write or email fellow shipmates and tell them about our association and reunion and invite them to St. Louis.

Ed Chartrand, President
edandlou27@sbcglobal.net

Some people dream the dream
Some people live the dream.
Some people defend the dream...
God bless the Defenders.



2018 USS POWER DD 839 OFFICERS

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

STAFF:

Master At Arms
Storekeeper
Chaplain
Webmaster
Newsletter

Jack Van Dervender
Jim Brocklebank
Michael Farrens
William Kirsch
John Pinto

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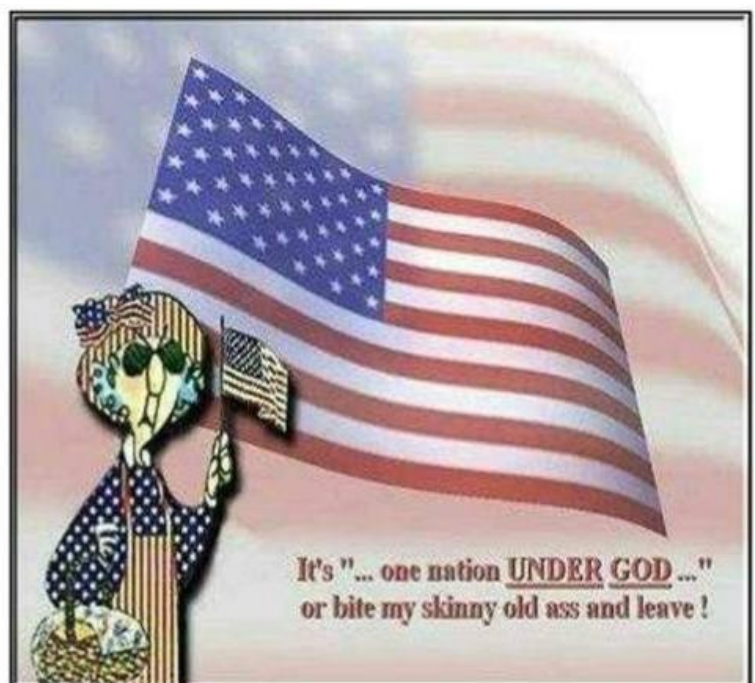
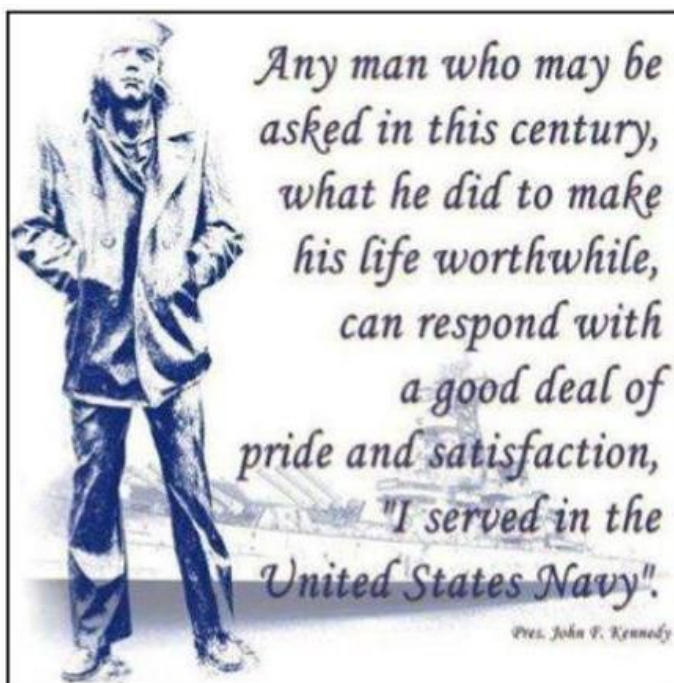
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT NOTES:

Hello Shipmates,

It seems like every time I jot down a few words for the newsletter I start off with "How the time does fly". Well, how the time indeed does fly. Here we are rapidly approaching the Christmas season, while it seems like just yesterday we were appreciating the beautiful lobsters in Maine. Soon we will be appreciating the ribs in St. Louis. Speaking of St. Louis, let us not forget to reach out and try to rein in more attendees for the next reunion. I am hopeful that our central location will attract more shipmates to the reunion.

I hope everyone had a joyous and fulfilling Thanksgiving and I am wishing all of you a very merry Christmas and a prosperous and happy New Year.

John Goricki
SR.V.P.





FROM THE DESK OF THE
SECRETARY



Shipmates ;

Holidays are slowly approaching, Christmas New Years, with Friends / Family celebrating. The year 2018 was another good year for the Association a great reunion in Portland Maine with a good turnout. Please keep in mind two things . We need more members to ensure that our Assn. Stays afloat and it's not too early to send in your 2019 dues. Twenty Dollars is all it takes to keep you informed of our Activities and our shipmates. It is one last payment you will not have when all the bills come in after the Holidays.

As always
Happy and Healthy Holidays to all
Looking forward to seeing you all in St. Louis in 2019

Bob Pulaski, Secret

USS POWER DD 839 *POWERFUL* LADIES* AUXILIARY*

CHAIRWOMAN

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

SECRETARY

Julia Goricki
goricjul@aol.com
803-397-9800

Powerful Ladies & USS Power Shipmates.... Belated Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year 2019. Did you know the St. Louis Missouri Botanical Gardens are among the top 3 botanical gardens in the world? St. Louis also has the largest Mardi Gras celebrations outside of New Orleans!

Our first night there on SUNDAY will be our "Welcome Aboard" dinner and the 1960's theme. Ladies wear flowers in your hair and do you still have your bell bottom jeans and guys your tie dyed T-shirts? We are doing something different this year so IF you bring a door prize please bring it to the welcome aboard dinner. We will be selling raffle tickets 20 TKTS. for \$5.00 and you would place your tkt. in a container in front of the gift you would like to take home, We will pull one ticket out at the end of the evening for each item and if you have the lucky tkt. you take it home. All monies raised from the raffle tickets will go to the USS Power Assoc. for further reunions. We will also have bingo and all money goes to winners. We are doing this because we have an entertainer at our Wed. dinner and he has 3 hours to entertain us.

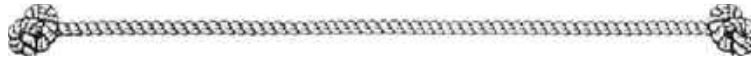
Please bring your shipmates photo to put up on our "Wall of Honor" which we put up every year. USS Power Shipmates if you are not coming to the next reunion we would still like to see your picture on our wall. You can mail it to me with your name, rank and years you were on the USS Power. A 5 X 7 works best but you can send any size. Invite your friends & family to St. Louis, the weather should be great and the leaves will be changing colors.

Do you thank a Vet. everyday, wear red on Fridays? Do you support your local Am. Legions and VFW'S and Ladies have you joined the Auxiliary? They are a great organization and a lot of fun. Ladies do you want to sing another song to our guys? Get your voices ready and I hope to sing at the dinner on Wed. night.

Mary Lou Chartrand - chairwomen
606 Edgebrook Drive
Shorewood, IL. 60404
815 744-3978 edandlou27@sbcglobal.net



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Welcome Shipmates Family Members & Guest:

It is now time to start preparing for our next reunion, our 23rd in St. Louis, MO. Our tour committee Mary Lou Chartrand, Debbie Weaver, Julia Goricki has been doing research on tours that may be of interest to our shipmates & guest. They have sent me two pages of things to do & see, some are free admission and some not open until Wednesday. They could be done on your own or we could start a 5 hour tour on Wednesday. I have been working on the most popular tours to set up and places to have lunch with a few suggestions. In order to keep the cost down and get the most for your buck, the casino's in the area offer a variety of food at the buffet at a reasonable price. Some of the tour prices are not out until January 2019 but as soon as they are available I will set them up. The Gateway Arch has limitations to accessibility & height problems for some doing the Tram ride to the top. You will have a choice of tours. We will have one Motor Coach with a lift for those needing it for wheelchairs. The motorized carts can be put underneath to give us more room on the bus to accommodate 52-56. The tours will run from 8:30am to 4:30pm Monday, Sept.16, 2019 & Tues. Sept.17, 2019. In order to do the tours we need (40) people or it will be cancelled. When the bus is full (52-56) a waiting list will be established. (Breakfast will start at 6:00am) We could have gone with a tour company to do the tours but you would be paying well over a \$100.00 plus for each tour. The money we save goes back into the treasury and back to the membership in raffle room nights, reduced banquet prices for Welcome Aboard. Each year the food & room rates are going up so we try and keep the cost increase to a couple of dollars. We have a surprise for you at our 2019 reunion at our Banquet Dinner. A Vocalist Entertainer who will be doing a tribute to Frank Sinatra 50/s 60/s dance music, so get your dancing shoes on and I hope you will enjoy the show. Marylou has recommended the entertainer so you will have to give her all the credit, and some from shipmates requesting some entertainment at the Banquet. We try and keep the dates of the reunions around September or October but sometimes we have to change to May or June or even August depending on State location and cost of rooms. I have sent out e-mail Questionnaires for requested reunion location for 2021 and have received back a few with their choice. The three most voted on were Las Vegas-Philadelphia-Branson. If you haven't sent in your choice please do so now if you want your voice heard. **Your dues are now do for 2019** so send in your dues, come to a reunion & enjoy the benefits, recruit new members, call a buddy you served with and ask him to come to the reunion. In January 2019 we will start looking for shipmates whom we served with to join us at our next reunion.

Update:

We will be discontinuing the mailing out of the Newsletter to just once a year after the December 2018 newsletter. April 2019 newsletter will be mailed out with reunion information and Function form. Shipmates without e-mail address will get the newsletter mailed to them on request and paid up dues. The Newsletters will be posted on the websites for April – August & December for reading & printing. (www.usspowerdd839.org) (www.usspowerdd839.com)

At the Membership meeting: (September 17, 2019 Tuesday)

- 1-We will ask for (3) locations from the floor & (2) will be posted for our 2021st reunion location
- 2-We will then post them on the board
- 3-We will then pass out papers for a handwritten vote of your choice from the list
- 4-They will be collected and the top two locations will then receive a second hand written vote
- 5-If there is a tie for second & third choice a revote of all three will be done and the one that has the highest number will be the 2021st location. (**Any questions you can call 352-527-2352 or e-mail jpinto839@gmail.com**)

Have a Happy
New Year & Merry Christmas
John & Kay

USS Power DD-839 Website
<http://www.usspowerdd839.org>

Bill Kirsch Webmaster

Website Update for December 2018

As mentioned in previous newsletters there is a statistics collection section that can tell us more information on how our web site is being used, here are some statistics from the internet traffic that took place on our web site in June. The top three browsers that are looking at our web site are Safari, Mozilla, and Firefox.

Reported period Month Oct 2018

First visit 01 Oct 2018 - 00:20

Last visit 31 Oct 2018 - 23:19

| | Unique visitors | Number of visits | Pages | Hits | Bandwidth |
|------------------|-----------------|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Viewed traffic * | 1495 | 5289 (3.53) visits/visitor) | 6850 (1.5 Pages/Visit) | 7600 (1.4 Hits/Visit) | 540.92 MB (104.72 KB/ Visit) KB/Visit |

Definition of term:

- Unique visitor – Number of client hosts (IP address) who came to visit the site (and who visited at least one page)
- Number of visits – A new visitor is defined as each new incoming visitor(viewing or browsing a page)
- Pages- Number of times a page of the site is viewed (sum of all visitors for all visits). This piece of data differs from "Hits" in that it counts only HTML pages as opposed to images and other files.
- Hits- Number of times a page, image, and file of the site is viewed or downloaded by someone.

Our website has new links under the **Project Shad 1962-1973 tab**. Click on **www.projectshad.net** for more information. Also **Mesothelioma** drop down was added with links to the VA. They both have more information on these important health subjects. Also note there is a Facebook link feature on the **www.usspowerdd839.org** website that will connect you to the USS Power Facebook page which is **USS Power DD-839**. You will need to establish a Facebook account to join if you do not already have one. Currently there are 94 members on the group site. Check out both sites. Remember you are free to post on the facebook page your own subject matter that relates to the USS Power at any time. Contact your webmaster Bill Kirsch at **bkvr52@centurylink.net.**, if you have any suggestions or comments. It is never too early to set the date and start planning for the upcoming Double Tree by Hilton St. Louis at Westport ship reunion in September 2019. (September 15th thru September 19th).

STOREKEEPER & TREASURER REPORT

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



Checking balance is **\$5,375.00**.

Have new supply of blue hats and coins in stock. Some shirts still available. Check with me before ordering to make sure they are in stock .

Happy Holidays to all shipmates.

Stay well.
 Jim & Betty

***Sailor's Night Before Christmas ***

**Twas the night before Christmas the ship was out steaming
Sailors stood watch while others were dreaming
They lived in a crowd with racks tight and small
In a 80 man berthing, cramped one and all.**

**I had come down the stack with presents to give
And to see inside just who might perhaps live
I looked all about a strange sight did I see
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.**

**No stockings were hung, shined boots closed at hand
On the bulkhead hung pictures of a far distant land
They had medals and badges and awards of all kind
And a sober thought came into my mind.**

**For this place was different, so dark and so dreary
I had found the house of a Sailor once I saw clearly
A Sailor lay sleeping silent and alone
Curled up in a rack and dreaming of home.**

**The face was so gentle the room squared away
This was the United States Sailor today
This was the hero I saw on TV
Defending our country so we could be free.**

**I realized the families that I would visit this night
Owed their lives to the Sailors lay willing to fight
Soon round the world the children would play
And grownups would celebrate on Christmas Day**

**They all enjoyed freedom each day of the year
Because of the Sailor like the one lying here
I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone
On a cold Christmas Eve on a sea, far from home.**

**The very thought brought a tear to my eye
I dropped to my knees and started to cry
The Sailor awakened and I heard a calm voice
"Santa don't cry", this life is my choice.**

**Defending the seas all days of the year
So others may live and be free with no fear
I thought for a moment what a difficult road
To live a life guided by honor and code**

**After all it's Christmas Eve and the ship's underway
But freedom isn't free and it's Sailors who pay
The Sailor's say's to our country "be free and sleep tight"
No harm will come not on my watch and not on this night.**

**The Sailor rolled over and drifted to sleep
I couldn't control it I continued to weep
I kept watch for hours, so silent, so still
I watched as the Sailor shivered from the night's cold chill**

**I didn't want to leave on that cold dark night
This guardian of honor so willing to fight
The Sailor rolled over and with a voice strong and sure
Commanded "Carry on Santa, It's Christmas, and All is Secure!"**



Capt. Paul Allen & Wife Faye
He still fits in his uniform only gained
6 lbs since retiring



Uss Shannon DM-25 Commissioned 1944
Shipmates
Back John Pandora
John Duegaw-Bill Jr. Plankowner Bill Giacalone Dan Robichaud

**You all are welcome to attend the 23rd St Louis, MO. Reunion
next year September 15-19, 2019 at the Doubletree St. Louis
Westport Hotel it was great having you aboard.**



Bath Maine Shipyard Sunday June 24, 2018

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

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Hello dear shipmates and families. We are already looking forward to the St. Louis reunion at the Doubletree Westport, it looks like a fine hotel. I pray for your continued good health so that we can all see each other there next year.

I message and call shipmates from time to time, to offer friendship and prayer. I messaged William "Bill" Barker Sr., one of our Plank owners, who lives 2 hours west of me in Gainesville FL, and we're on Facebook together too, in case you want to "Friend" me or him. Please let me know if you hear of any shipmates or families that need prayer or conversation. My contact information is below.

Everyone take care and keep in touch.



Michael K. Farrens,
JR.VP/Chaplain,
386.265.1645
mandcfarrens@gmail.com

Deceased Shipmate:

Carl P. Holzer Deceased December 25, 2015
Carl was a member of the USS POWER DD 839 Association
He served aboard the USS POWER DD 839 1956-1960 BT3
Carl will be mentioned at our Banquet Two Bell Ceremony

