

**APRIL
2022**

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 MESSAGE

Greetings Fellow Shipmates and Powerful Ladies..... Hoping all our shipmates and families are doing well and looking forward to seeing many at our reunion in Jacksonville, FL. In our last newsletter I mentioned the passing of fellow shipmate and friend John Goricki, once more with a heavy heart reporting the passing of Jim Brocklebank. Jim was a dedicated member and integral part of our association. He will be missed by all as shipmate and friend. His shoes will truly be hard to fill. Our heart goes out to Betty Brocklebank. May God watch over you and know you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Ed Chartrand, President
edandlou27@sbcglobal.net



2021 USS POWER DD 839 OFFICERS

President	Ed Chartrand
Sr. Vice President	Mike Farrens
Jr. Vice President	Harry Daub
Secretary	Open Acting John Pinto
Treasurer	Open Acting Ed Chartrand
Chairman	John Pinto
Past President	Ed Chartrand

STAFF:

Master At Arms
Storekeeper
Chaplain
Webmaster
Newsletter

Jack Van Devender
Open
Michael Farrens
William Kirsch
John Pinto

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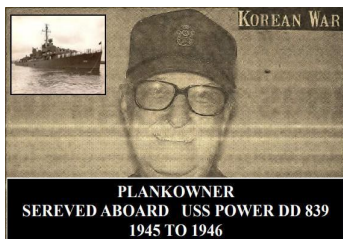


In Memory of our Fallen Shipmates
May the wind be ever at your back
Fair weather and God speed!



*** ALL WILL BE HONORED AT OUR TWO BELL CEREMONY * MAY 15, 2022 ***

HERMAN M HECHLER



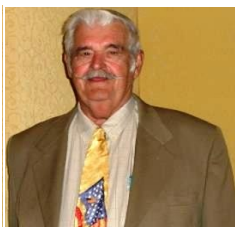
KINGWOOD — On Tuesday, June 4, 2019, Herman Hechler passed away at the age of 94. Herman served his country in both WWII and the Korean War as a Navy diver. Herman and Liz owned the "Apple blossom" restaurant in Hardin, Illinois for many years where they made many longtime friends. Herman was preceded in death by both his parents, Herman O. and Mary Hechler as well as his two sisters, Juanita and Florence. Also preceding him in death was his wife of 46 years, Elizabeth. His stepdaughter Jeanne, grandchildren, Amy, Heidi, Amanda, and Lindsey and great grand children, Jaime, Luke, and Meg, survive him. In addition, nieces and nephews survive Herman

Homer M. Tack Jr. 1946 -2022



Homer M. Tack Jr., 75, of Butler, passed away on Jan. 21, 2022, at Butler Memorial Hospital. He was born Sept. 14, 1946, in Butler, and was the son of the late Homer M. Tack Sr. and the late Eleanora Garing Tack. Homer graduated from Butler Area High School in 1964. He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church. Homer was self-employed and worked for Homer M. Tack Excavating Company. He also worked as an inspector for Gibson Thomas Engineering Company out of Latrobe, retiring in 2013. Homer was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, having served during Vietnam on the USS Power DD 839. He was a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America and the Disabled American Veterans. Homer enjoyed hunting, and being with his grandchildren. Homer is survived by his daughter, Rhonda Coroian and her husband, William Brian, of Chicora; two grandchildren, Chandler Tack and Richard Greygor III; he was preceded in death by his wife, Dianna Tack, whom he married on June 7, 1968, and who passed away on Feb. 7, 2019;

George "Jim" Brocklebank 1941 -2022



George "Jim" Brocklebank 80 years old was born in Ferndale, MI on July 7th, 1941. He graduated from Royal Oak Dondero High School in 1959 and joined the Navy in October 1962 and attained the rank of RM2 (E-5) and was discharged in October 1966. Resided in Florida from 1966 until 2007 when he moved to Tuscaloosa, AL where he lived until his passing on February 4th, 2022. Survived by his wife Betty of 44 years and his sister Janelle who lives in MI. He will be interred at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI

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**It is a Veteran, not the preacher  
Who has given us freedom of religion**

**It is the Veteran, not the reporter  
who has given us freedom of the press**

**It is the Veteran, not the poet  
who has given us freedom of speech**

**It is the Veteran, not the campus organizer  
who has given us freedom to assemble**

**It is the Veteran, not the lawyer  
who has given us the right to a fair trial**

**It is the Veteran, not the politician  
who has given us the right to vote**



## 2022 Nomination for Executive Board Members

**Office for 3 years to take effect 01 January 2022 -Retroactively**  
**Nominees:**

**After each nomination, the president Ed Chartrand repeats (3) time the names to the assembly the president says:**

**President:** Harry Daub, for President.

**Sr. Vice President:** Jack VanDevender

**Jr. Vice President:** Mike Farrens

After each nomination, the president Ed Chartrand repeats (3) time the names to the assembly the president says: Are there further nominations for

### Nominees:

**Treasurer:** Harry Daub      Nominations for Treasurer

**Secretary:** Mike Lillis      Nominations for Secretary

**Chairman :** John Pinto      Nomination for Chairman

The President closes nominations when no further nominations come forward from the assembly.

- **\*Changes to By-Laws & Constitution\***
- **Article VI.** Of the Constitution
- **Quorum-** Approved by full membership 21 shipmates 6/24/2017 meeting  
Addendum: Change Quorum to be not less than 15 members in good order.
- Addendum: Change Quorum to be not less than 10 members in good order **(ADD CHANGE)**
- **BY-LAWS** Treasurer –ADD Chairman as second joint signer of bank account **(ADD CHANGE)**
- **Article IX.** of the Constitution
- **Special Power**

### CHAIRWOMAN

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

### SECRETARY

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

## USS POWER DD 839

### \*POWERFUL\* LADIES\* AUXILIARY\*

Our thoughts and prayers to Betty Brocklebank and her family on the passing of her husband Jim. God bless Betty and her family as he will be missed.

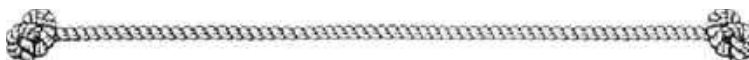
USS POWERFUL LADIES..... Hope you can come to our reunion in Jacksonville, FL. May 12th. thru May 16th. Time to reminisce with your better half of his days stationed at Mayport. We are planning a movie night and possibly a pizza night. John and Kay Pinto have great tours lined up for us. As you are reading this newsletter please look for a photo of your sailor in his uniform to bring to the reunion or mail to me. A 5X7 works great please put his full name, years in the Navy and rank. Our "Wall of Honor" in the hospitality room is getting bigger each year but we need your photo.

We will have BINGO after our Welcome Aboard dinner and the theme this year is **HAWAIIAN** so wear your Hawaiian shirt or hula skirt to our first night there. We will have leis for you. If you would like to bring a door prize please bring it to our last dinner night there with our entertainer. The door prize is purely optional. Our 2023 reunion will be in Colorado.

Mary Lou Chartrand, Chairwomen  
 email me for my address if you want to send the photo in the mail  
 endlou27@sbcglobal.net



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Welcome Shipmates, Family members & Guest:

It is time to finally get away, have some fun, and get together with family and friends. We have set up many things to do in sunny Florida at the Doubletree Riverfront along the Saint Johns River. Early arrivals on Wednesday evening we can get together and have dinner at the St. Johns Provision Lounge Relax, meet, and unwind in the lobby lounge - featuring happy hour and a full menu. It is small but cozy. Our group will get a \$1.00 discount on drinks & 10% off food items. The Hospitality room (Osceola-Dupont-Desoto) will be open after set up Thursday. You can pick up your nametags & packet in the hospitality room when you arrive. Make sure when you sign in at the check in desk that you ask for your tickets for breakfast each morning 7:00 am to 11:00 am. The hotel will do its best to get you in your room as soon as possible, check in is 4:00 pm & check out is 11:00 am. **Executive Board meeting** to be held in the Mayport room 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm The quaint San Marco area centers on its leafy namesake square, a lively hub with indie



boutiques and casual eateries serving brunch, pizza and ice cream. Chic bistros and trendy bars dot surrounding streets. The art deco San Marco Theatre shows art-house movies and new releases, and rock bands play at intimate venue Jack Rabbits Live. The neighborhood is also known for its old riverfront mansions. If safety is a top priority for you, you will be pleased to know that San Marco is one the safest neighborhoods in Jacksonville. If you enjoy walking out late at night, this is your area. It is a short walk from the hotel; you can use the hotel van, or beach buggy when in use to get there. I would not walk on the river walk at night on either side It is very safe during the day.

On Saturdays, there is nice Riverside Arts Market under the I-95 Bridge creating shade on warmer days. They have good food and often live entertainment too. The South Bank river walk is also nice but not as pretty and more isolated. It is nice to walk across the Main Street Bridge and see the water and boats below. Jacksonville is really a suburban city, is not walk able and very little to do downtown. On March 26 the USS Orleck DD-886 was relocating from Lake Charles La. to Jacksonville, Fl. Tied up to the pier. The Orleck will be moored temporarily along the Jacksonville Riverwalk near the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront hotel. A permanent home is planned at the Jacksonville Shipyards west of the demolished Berkman Plaza II, where a sign says "coming soon – Future home of the USS Orleck Museum Ship." There are plans for a ticket office, gift shop and a park that could include naval aircraft on display. Treasurer Report at present money in bank account **\$7200.91** It has been a trying time for all of us these past years, with the loss of family members and shipmates, whom we have known for years. Coming to the reunions each year getting together with family and friends and honoring our fallen shipmates helps to ease the pain. The Power association was at the brink of disbanding with the passing of our President John Goricki & Treasurer Jim Brocklebank and illness of other executive board members. Ed Chartrand and Harry Daub have stepped up and took the helm to getting our bank account in order. We are working on making changes to the By-Laws & Constitution & nominations to the executive board to keep our association running. I have a contract & information on **Colorado Springs** for May 2023 to bring to the membership.

I miss John & Jim and our passing shipmates whom I have served with aboard the USS POWER DD 839 I pray for them & their families.

Stay Well Be Safe

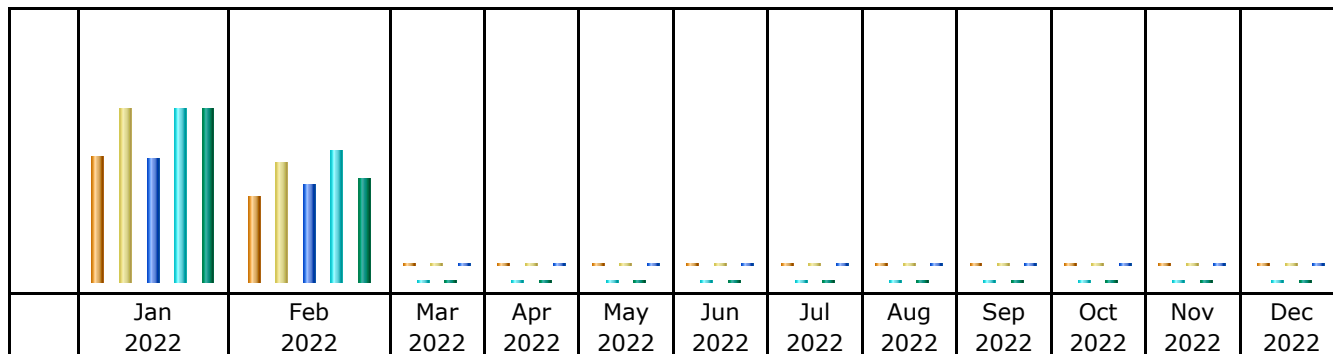
John Pinto



**William Kirsch**  
Webmaster

### Website Update for April 2022

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 website in June. The top three browsers that are looking at our web site are Safari, Mozilla, and Firefox.



|                        |                     |                 |                 |                 |                 |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Reported period</b> | Month Feb 2022      |                 |                 |                 |                 |
| <b>First visit</b>     | 01 Feb 2022 - 01:16 |                 |                 |                 |                 |
| <b>Last visit</b>      | 28 Feb 2022 - 23:48 |                 |                 |                 |                 |
|                        | Unique visitors     | Unique visitors | Unique visitors | Unique visitors | Unique visitors |
| Viewed traffic *       | 423                 | 423             | 423             | 423             | 423             |

#### 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 in viewed or downloaded by someone.

Our website has links for [Project Shad 1962-1973](#), [Mesothelioma](#), and [Agent Orange](#); if you are a Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veteran (Power West Pac Viet Nam cruise from August 1968 to July 1969), you may be eligible for The Veterans Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-23, enacted 01 July 2019). In this law, you may qualify for a presumption of service connection if you have a disease that is recognized as being associated with herbicide exposure. Agent Orange tab has information to reference material that may benefit you in your claim with the VA. Also, note a Facebook link feature on the [www.usspowerdd839.org](http://www.usspowerdd839.org) website that will connect you to the USS Power Facebook page, [USS Power DD-839](#). Currently, there are 138 members on the public group site. Check out both sites. Remember, you are free to post on the Facebook page any subject matter related to the USS Power at any time; pictures of your time onboard are always welcome.

#### Notes from the Webmaster:

Shipmates, did you know that you do not have to be an Amazon Prime member to use [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)? You can help your favored charity as a consumer by using a smile! Amazon donates 0.5 % at no cost to you. Please check it out; go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) to find out more information. The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is listed as well as other well-deserving charities. As of February 2022 the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society has received \$73,297 dollars from the Amazon Smile program. Save the date May 12-16<sup>th</sup>; the May 2022 reunion will be coming up faster than you think. For more information, go to the website [usspowerdd839.org](http://usspowerdd839.org) and click on the menu tab Chairman's Update Report.

I want to thank Darrell Cunningham and Steve Hardy for being Admin volunteers. They have been doing a great job taking down the spam posts that constantly infiltrate the USS Power Facebook page. Bravo Zulu!

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

#### THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



CHAPLAIN:

I don't know how many more reunions God will let me attend, but I plan to bring my daughter and possibly my grandchildren. So mark your calendar and join me. Please let me know if you hear of anyone that's ill or needs prayer for any reason. Pray for our departed shipmates Homer Tack , Jim Brocklebank and plankowner Herman Hechler

You can reach me at [mandcfarrens@gmail.com](mailto:mandcfarrens@gmail.com) ,  
386-265-1645, or write me at  
4 Ocean Side Drive,  
Ormond Beach, FL 32176.  
May God bless you all.

