

**DECEMBER
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



DUES R DUE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well, it has come to that time when my tenure as your President is coming to an end. It has been a great and wonderful experience and a great pleasure to have served with you these last five and a half years which will end on Dec. 31, 2014. On Jan. 1, 2015 Carl Burnham will be your new president for the next three years. I wish the best for Carl in his term as our president and that he has the support that I have had in my term. I do hope to see all of you and hopefully some new faces at the 19th reunion in Mobile Al. If you've seen the itinerary for Mobile you will see that John has planned a great time with good lodging and tours with the best prices. If you haven't seen the itinerary, then check your e-mail. It also has the function form you need to fill out and mail to Bob Pulaski.

Fall is here and the leaves are turning with all the beautiful colors. Don't you just love this time of year with cooler weather and the holidays are upon us! This is the time when we get together with our families and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving and then Christmas. So at this time I want to wish everyone a festive Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

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 1 OFFICERS

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 NOTES:

It is now the fall season that means raking leaves and yard cleanup before winter comes. The 2015 reunion will be in May 12-16 in Mobile, AL as most of you already know. Anyone who would like to see our reunions did in other ways please be sure to attend our membership business meeting. Michael Dell said "There's always an opportunity to make a difference", so remember speak up. Start thinking about the tours you would like to take in Mobile. First tour on Wednesday to Pensacola, FL and Naval Aviation Museum, watch Blue Angels practice. Tour number two is a tour of Mobile's Historic District and USS ALABAMA Memorial Park. Tour number three is on your own such as History Museum, Carnival Museum, Botanical Gardens, and Museum of Art. Each one of us needs to contact former shipmates that were aboard at the same time as each of us was. Ask them to come to our reunion.

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

Greetings Fellow Shipmates and Powerful Ladies:

Where has the summer gone? It seems like one of the shortest summers in memory. Could be the older you get the faster time goes by, or is it just me? We will just have to get through this winter and start thinking about our next reunion. As usual we will be looking forward to once again being together. Try to encourage fellow shipmates to return and recruit new ones so they can find out what they have been missing.

Once again I will have the honor of being in the Color Guard at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery on Dec. 13th. For Wreaths across America. We have a ceremony with hundreds of volunteers there on a cold blustery day to place wreaths on the graves of Veteran's. The V.F.W.'S, American Legions, Navy recruits from Great Lakes and Boy Scouts are among some of the volunteers that help out. Afterwards we are treated to a free luncheon at Stone City V.F.W. Post 2199 in Joliet, IL. With all the food being donated. Here are a few dates to remember! October 27th. Navy Day, Nov. 11th. Veteran's Day Thank a Vet, Dec. 7th. Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (fly your flag half staff all day) Dec. 13th. 84th. annual Navy vs. Army football game. Want to help a Wounded Warrior?

Go to the website: <http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/believe-in-heroes.aspx> to download coupons for hostess, campbell, dog food, jello, starkist etc. and use the coupons and when you do they will donate to the Wounded Warrior Project. It is a win-win project. This fall if you buy Marie Calender frozen entrees or desserts and enter the code from special marked products 1 code = 1 donation to the U.S.O. Go to the website comfortsfromhome.com for more information. This campaign ends Jan. 31, 2015.

Proud of our nation they answered her call Defending the freedom and safety of all
On land or on sea, or in jets high above, They went out of duty and honor and love.
But however they served, Lord, wherever they went, Please bless them and help them to know what it meant!
And help us to thank them on Veteran's Day For we owe them far more than we ever could say.

Ed Chartrand, Jr. Vice President



FROM THE DESK OF THE
SECRETARY ROBERT PULASKI

Shipmates ;

Holidays are slowly approaching, Thanksgiving, Christmas New Years, with Friends / Family celebrating. The year 2014 was another good year for the Association a great reunion in Jacksonville Florida 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 2015 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 Alabama in 2015

Bob Pulaski, Secretary



USS POWER LADIES AUXILIARY

Veteran's Day is Nov. 11th have you thanked a Veteran today and every day? Here is another way to help a Veteran if you buy Marie Callender's frozen entrees or desserts with specially marked packages they will make a donation to the USO. Look for the code on the package and enter it each code = 1 donation. Go to www.comfortsfromhome.com for more info and pass this on to family and friends. This project ends Jan. 31, 2015.

I hope those who received Tupperware Gift Certificates from the Jacksonville reunion have ordered off their website. If you don't need Tupperware the certificates make great gifts for birthdays or holidays. Don't let them go to waste by sitting in your kitchen drawers! I hope all have seen our "Wall of Honor" that was in the last newsletter. We need more photos of USS Power shipmates in uniform to put up on the wall for the next reunion. I will put the pictures up every year. Mail your photo to my house with your name, rank and dates that you were in the Navy or bring the photo to the next reunion in Mobile.

Out theme for the "Welcome Aboard" dinner is Halloween so start thinking about your costume. If you would like to bring a door prize to our DINNER DANCE on our last night in Mobile that would be great, either handmade or store bought. If you like to sew or crochet go to www.operationcarepackages.org website and get instructions on making Christmas stockings, helmet liners or neck gators and mail them to me. I belong to this Joliet, IL. All volunteer organization that ships care pkgs. all year long to our troops that are in War Zones. Hope to see new and old friends at our next reunion in Mobile, Al. in May 2015. Any questions you can call me or e-mail or if you any finished sewing articles for Operation Care Packages you can mail them to me.

Thank You,
Have a great Winter and Holiday Season!
Mary Lou Chartrand, Chairman
606 Edgebrook Drive
Shorewood, IL. 60404
815 744-3978
www.edandlou27@sbcglobal.net



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Welcome Shipmates:

I hope you all had a warm summer and now are getting ready for the Christmas Holidays with your family and friends. In another 5 months we will be having our 19th reunion at the Holiday Inn Mobile Airport in Mobile Alabama. The hotel is fairly new and has a airport shuttle for those who are planning to come in by plane. You can check out the attached function form which has all the info for you to call for your pick up and drop of when you are leaving. Breakfast will be in the restaurant each morning and you need to pick up your food voucher at the front desk when you check in. I worked out with the hotel to have breakfast choices ,so you can choose from a special menu which was set up by the hotel. Some like to have a variety and not the same food each morning. All guest rooms have a refrigerator and wifi set up along with a microwave. The hotel has set up a welcome reception on Tuesday at 5pm before our Welcome Aboard with wine ,cheese and fruit. The Hospitality room on the 2nd floor room 209 will be open at noon on Tuesday May 12. You can pick up your packet and name tags and relax until your room is ready. Wednesday we have scheduled our first tour to Pensacola and the Naval museum and the Blue Angels Demo, they are only at the museum on certain dates and we were lucky to get that day. Our tour Thursday will be to the Battleship Alabama. We will tour Mobile before going to ""Battleship Cove"" where we will muster aboard the fantail for memorial service before starting the ship tour. If you choose to go out and eat on Wednesday or Thursday night ,here are some of the



popular places to go . "The Oyster Bar" The food is good and plentiful and not that expensive . The salad bar at the Oyster House is fresh and has a great variety of items for the price. We tried it out when we came down to do our site inspection of

the Hotels in the Mobile area . Thursday night will be our Membership meeting from 5:00pm to 7:00pm after which you are on your own. Friday is a free day to tour on your own or sign up to car pool to the Ingalls Shipbuilding Yard in Pascagoula, MS. Friday night is our Banquet Dinner Buffet and we will have a DJ this year and we hope he will be able to get everyone moving.

(Check out our website for updated info: www.usspowerdd839.org)

Fill out the Attached Function form even if you are not attending the reunion at this time so we can update the mailing list and include your Dues.

Our new **Executive Board Members** take effect January 1, 2015

President : Carl Burnham **Sr. Vice President** : Ed Chartrand **Jr. Vice President** : John Goricki
Treasurer : Jim Brocklebank **Secretary** : Bob Pulaski **Chairman** : John Pinto
Past President : William Lilley

Our Assigned **Staff Members**

Master At Arms: Eric Barnes **Storekeeper** : Jim Brocklebank **Chaplain** : Dewey Ray
Assistant Chaplain : Mike Farrens

Un Assigned

Website Webmaster : **Newsletter Editor & Publisher** : Presently : John Pinto

We wish you all a Blessed Christmas Holiday & Pray for a better World

Safe Trip to the Reunion
 John Pinto

19 Men

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

CHRISTMAS 1962

Arrived 23 December 1962 in Massawa, Ethiopia that ancient Christian country often mentioned in the Bible. Interestingly the heading on the Plan-of-the-Day for 24 December said Massawa, Eritrea. On 14 November 1962 Eritrea, the northern most province of Ethiopia, had been reunited with it. The separation having occurred before World War II. Christmas decorations could be seen on many buildings as we approached our berth. A familiar sight after almost two months visiting some very strange lands. Liberty began that afternoon but for me the next day. All the local merchants observed Siesta and were closed from noon to four o'clock. However, the bars stayed open and several of us promptly found one called The Gold Coast Navy. It was a rather plush establishment more like a cocktail lounge with padded chairs and coffee tables set up everywhere. A large portrait of King Haile Selassie And his Queen centered behind the bar drew one's attention. The atmosphere was most inviting and we stayed until the shops opened. To my surprise most of the merchandise they sold came from Italy, Japan and the U.S. But some was local and I bought some necklaces made of polished sea shells. Christmas Eve Was celebrated on the ship with Protestant Divine Service being conducted by a Rev, Berg, an American Missionary serving in the area. The Roman Catholics were able to go ashore to Midnight Mass at a local church. Supper for Christmas Eve consisted of grilled pork chops, mashed potatoes and gravy, creamed corn, salad bar, apple sauce and brownies, This menu certainly reflects our having been reprovisioned. Many of us may recall the canned hamburgs we were eating midway through this cruise. The ones where the date on the can they came in was 1943 Christmas Day found us on full holiday routine. Unfortunately, all I wrote of the Christmas meal was we had a very nice meal. Having had duty on Christmas it was back to the beach on the 26th and no need of shopping this time. Three or four of us went to the U.S.Army R&R Hotel. It was a restaurant/bar with the added attraction to many slot machines. The Army had an installation in Asmara, the capital of Eritrea, about 45 miles inland. The ship ran overnight liberty parties to Asmara while we were there. I didn't go but many who did reported having a splendid time. While I don't recall seeing our soldiers in Massawa they must have been the reason for the R&R Hotel. I can only remember playing the slot machines. Another memorable establishment in Massawa was a four storied apartment building with an interior staircase leading to a bar and dance floor on the roof. The staircase was quite a hike going up and positively dangerous coming down after a couple hours of drinking. I recall one guy in my division, Miller, fell down one whole flight but thankfully was so inebriated no bones were broken. And the pain didn't set in until the next morning with sobriety. Our stay in Massawa ended the morning of the 27th. In a letter I wrote on the 28th it said; the last couple of days in Massawa the crew got fairly wild resulting in many Captain's Masts today and will continue tomorrow. Now that the ship's perfect conduct is shot-to-hell we are feeling the effects of it today so far there have been two General Quarters and. Monday an inspection is scheduled." So nearing the end of a two months cruise that took us through the Red Sea, the Arabian Sea and briefly into the Indian Ocean our sailor's life reconnected with its constant rhythm of ups and downs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Monday 24 December 1962 –PLAN OF THE DAY

1. MERRY CHRISTMAS to all hands!
2. A 27 bag mail delivery is expected today. Ha-Ha I've heard this quite often.
3. Catholics in the duty section may leave the ship for Midnight Mass at the Church forward of the ship and over the bridge Taulud. Uniform: Service Dress White
4. Normally shops in Massawa open at 0800, close at 1200 until about 1600, then reopen until 2200. Siesta time is observed from 1200 to 1600 in almost all shops.
5. Today's Menu:

Breakfast

Chilled Apricots Assorted Ready to eat cereal Chilled Milk Boiled Farina Scrambled Eggs Fried Bacon Hot Biscuit Butter, Jelly, Jam Coffee

Dinner

Chili Con Carne French Fried Potatoes Steam Rice Buttered Asparagus Apple Pie Salad Bar w/Dressing Kool Ade Bread, Butter, Coffee
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Supper

Grilled Pork Chop Mashed Potatoes Brown Gravy Buttered Cream Corn Chilled Apple Sauce Brownies Salad Bar w/ Dressing Ice Tea Sliced Lemons Bread, Butter, Coffee

SUN
RISE- 0646
SET- 1758

USS POWER (DD 839)
THE FLEET'S FINEST
PLAN OF THE DAY

MONDAY
24 December 1962
Massawa, Eritrea

CDO: LT BOGUSZEWSKI
GUN: LTJG KORRELL
OPS: ENS VAN BRACKLE
ENG: LTJG BORDE
SUP: RICHMOND, SK1

DUTY YN: WALKER, YN3
DUTY DIV: 2ND
DUTY MAA: RENEAU, SF1

CARRY OUT THE NORMAL IN PORT ROUTINE WITH THE FOLLOWING EXCEPTIONS:

200 Turn off med lights
0600 Reveille
615 Turn to; wash down all weather decks; shine all brightwork; sweep down all compartments and Passageways;; empty all trash.

0645 Breakfast
0745 Quarters for muster; instruction; and inspection

0750 Officer's call
0800 45 Man Asmara Tour Party board bus for special liberty to expire on Board Power upon return about 1600 Tuesday, 25 December 1962.
0810 Turn to ;titivate ship; sweep down all passageways, compartments, offices, And shops
0900 Commence holiday routine.
0900 Liberty commences for the STARBOARD Section to expire on board as follows:

 0200 CPO's
 0100 ALL other PO's
 2400 ALL non-rated men
1000 Captain departs on official call
1030 Muster 4 sideboys, BMOW and Guard of the Day pm the quarterdeck.
1100 Captain Imperial Ethiopian Navy makes a call on the Commanding Officer.
1130 Captain Imperial Ethiopian Navy departs with the Commanding Officer.
1130 Dinner
1730 Supper
1830 Rig the Hangar for Protestant Divine Services conducted by an American Minister..
1845 Rev Berg and his family plus some Missionary children arrive on board of the tour of the ship and services.
1930 Protestant Divine Christmas Services in the Hangar.
 (after services) Movie on the Flight Deck
 (after services) Christmas Carols on the Flight Deck-refreshments in the Crews Mess
2330 Catholic Church party departs for Midnight Mass.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

1-Todays short turn to is to clean up the ship after provisions loading, and to make the ship presentable over the holidays. Tomorrow will be a full day Holiday Routine.
2-The uniform of the day on board is Undress White B for crew. Tropical White Long for Officers and CPO's. The uniform for liberty is service Dress White or Tropical White Long for the crew, Tropical White Long for Officers and CPO's.
Officers may wear civilian clothes. The uniform for the quarterdeck is Tropical White Long for Officers and CPO's.,and Service Dress White for other enlisted.

B.P. HARDY, LTJG, USN
Command Duty Officer for
E.F. KELLY, LCRD, USN
Executive Officer

USS Power DD-839 Website
<http://www.USSPowerDD839.org>

WANTED:

SHIPMATE or Family Member to volunteer to assume Maintaining Webmaster Duties
 Website has been updated by Dean Seals with limited access.

Contact : Bill Lilley magellan@peoplescom.net


JIM BROCKLEBANK, Treasure /Storekeeper

Wishing all shipmates a great holiday season coming up soon. Remember to fly your flag for Veterans Day Tuesday Nov 11. Also take advantage of the free offers at some of the restaurants they offer veterans on our day. Checking account balance at present time is \$3,964.00. Not much activity going on in the ships store.



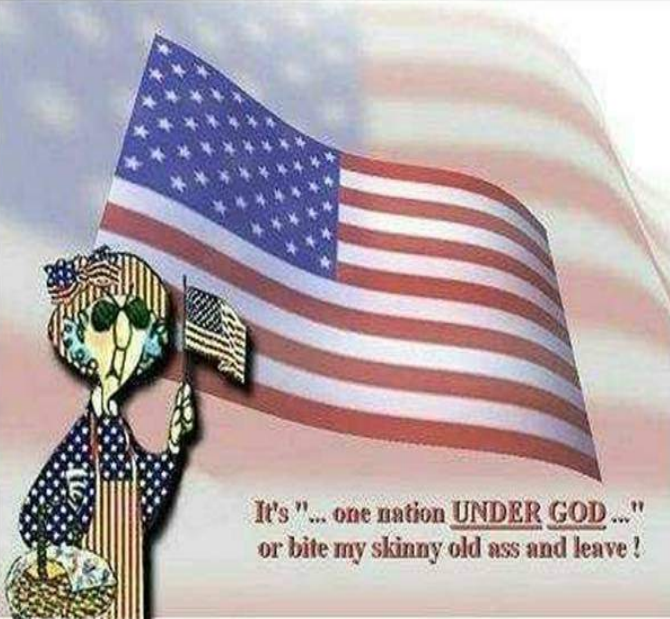
POWER JACKET
A LIGHT WEIGHT 100% NYLON LINING JACKET. GREAT FOR COOL DAYS & NIGHTS
PRICE: \$30
FOR S THRU XXL
INCLUDING SHIPPING

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



Any man who may be asked in this century, what he did to make his life worthwhile, can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction, "I served in the United States Navy".

Pres. John F. Kennedy



It's "... one nation UNDER GOD ..." or bite my skinny old ass and leave !

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



«Address Block»

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The world seems to be in great turmoil these days. I believe it is a sign of the time for Christ's return to redeem his people. Even in our country, God has been taken out of much of our society. Many countries hate Christians. Many Christians have died for their faith.

I encourage all my shipmates to put their trust in God no matter what you are going through. God will answer our prayers if we have faith and trust in him.

John Pinto has just given me many names of shipmates to contact. In the next few weeks I will be calling them to see how they are doing.

God bless each one of you. We are looking forward to seeing you at our May reunion.

Sincerely,
Chaplain Dewey Ray

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Home - 607-533-4700
deweypower@comcast.net

