

**AUGUST
2023**

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



2024 REUNION
NORFOLK VIRGINIA.
MAY 6-9, 2024
Monday to Friday check out
4-NIGHTS
DOUBLETREE NORFOLK AIRPORT
1500 N. Military Hwy.
Norfolk Va.23502
Reservations call
1-800-222-8733
USS POWER Member
Hotel # 757-457-8903
Cut off date Friday
April 5, 2024
Check website for updates
and more info

2022 USS POWER DD 839 OFFICERS

President	Harry Daub
Sr. Vice President	Jack Van Devender
Jr. Vice President	Mike Farrrens
Secretary	Mike Lillis
Treasurer	Harry Daub
Chairman	John Pinto
Past President	Ed Chartrand

STAFF:

Master At Arms	Jack Van Devender
Storekeeper	Jack Van Devender
Chaplain	Dean Seals
Webmaster	William Kirsch
Newsletter	John Pinto

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From the President's Desk

This year's reunion in Colorado Springs was a huge success. Cheryle and I enjoyed visiting with old friends and making new ones. Our tour to the Air Force Academy and the surrounding area was excellent. We are hoping that our next year's reunion at Norfolk, VA will have more participation. Kudos go out to those who helped make this year's reunion a success. A special thanks to Katie and John Pinto who spent a lot of time meeting with the Hotel management to get the best deals for our association. We are looking forward to seeing you in Norfolk, VA from 6 May to 10 May 2024 check out. We will be meeting at the Double Tree by Hilton Norfolk Airport.

ALL THE BEST

Harry Daub President.

Treasurer's Report.

All bills have been paid and the treasury is solvent. A comprehensive treasurer's report will be given at the next reunion.

HARRY G DAUB
Treasurer

\$5.00
Prize : One- Ticket
USS POWER WOOD PLAQUE

Raffle

\$5.00
Prize : One-Ticket
USS POWER LIGHTER

Must be 2024 Dues paid up member in order to Qualify
You do not have to be present
Drawing will be May 9, 2024 Banquet Hall

Each ticket you purchase will have your name on it.
Send in 2024 Dues in with your raffle Purchase and item raffle choice.



Donated by Family of
Thomas W. White EM3
Served aboard USS POWER DD 839
from 1962-1963
Deceased Feb. 19, 2015

USS POWER DD 839 *POWERFUL* LADIES* AUXILIARY*

CHAIRWOMAN

Cathy Van DeVender

SECRETARY

Linda Burnham

Asst. SECRETARY

Earline Barnes

USS POWERFUL LADIES....

Looking forward to our next reunion in Norfolk, Va. Our first night at our "Welcome Aboard" dinner is DISNEY so wear anything to do with Disney. We will play bingo the first night and all \$\$ goes to the winners. Don't forget that when the men have their membership meeting the ladies will have theirs. The ladies sang "What do you do with a drunken Sailor?" and the guys loved it. If you can make or purchase a door prize for our last night dinner that would be appreciated. Have a great rest of the summer and stay cool.

Mary Lou Chartrand

Cathy Van Devender, Chairwoman

vancas4@aol.com

228-669-2415



Senior Vice President

Dear shipmates.

The Colorado Springs Reunion was so enjoyable! The altitude was a challenge, but I managed. The highlights for me were seeing the other sailors and their families, driving through Garden of the gods park, and having an amazing view of Pikes Peak right from our hotel. It was a blessing to attend with Mary, Cindy, Matt, Jacob, and Kyle. Huge thanks again to John and Kay Pinto for organizing such a wonderful trip. Next year is in Norfolk, VA, and I hope to be able to attend. I bought a sash and we put all of my past Navy Reunion pins on it, so I will wear it next year.

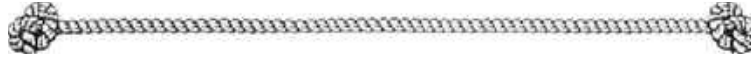
Warmest Regards,

Michael Farrens, VP





CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Welcome Shipmates

I would like to thank all who attended the Colorado Springs reunion, all who volunteered to help out and make the reunion a success. I hope you are all well and enjoying the summer. It has been hot and humid here in Florida. Our reunion went better than I expected even though the turnout wasn't that great we all had a good time. It took awhile to adjust to the elevation for some but they weathered the storm. Everyone enjoyed the tours set up for them, the second day was a half day tour which seems to work well, it gave everyone a chance to adjust to the elevation and relax. The tour of the US Air Force Academy and lunch at the Falcon Club was great and the price was reasonable. Garden of the Gods Trading Post was one of the highlights. At the Trading Post you could get a cone or scoop of pistachio ice cream which was a big hit. Tour times were cut to 7 hr. for the first tour and 4 hr for the second tour which cut the cost a little and gave you more free time. Our tour guide was very knowledgeable on the history of downtown Colorado Springs, Millionaires Row" Mansions built after the discovery of gold in the late 1800s Pioneer Museum and the Penrose Heritage Museum. At the front door of the 5 star Broadmoor Hotels are exhibits of horse drawn carriages, stagecoaches and a sample of the cars that race up Pikes Peak. You could see the peak from some of the hotel rooms. Wednesday we had our membership meeting at 3:00 pm to vote on changing our 2024 reunion location from Pigeon Forge, TN. to Norfolk VA. It was voted on by all members (15) and all approved the change. (I could not work a deal with the hotel in Pigeon Forge, TN.) I have been working on Pigeon Forge for months and they wouldn't budge. I got a proposal in my email from Doubletree Norfolk Airport so the choice was book Norfolk, VA. or no reunion for 2024. Mike Farrens stepped down as Chaplain after 20 years, he recommended passing on the duties of Chaplain to Dean Seals. It was voted and accepted. After our meeting adjourned it was getting close to 6:00 pm and our Pizza should be arriving for Pizza Party & Bingo. I ordered Marco's Pizza for everyone, great pizza and the price was right. All and all it was a great reunion. Info on Norfolk, Virginia 2024. It is late in the year and I had to do a site visit of the Hotel so during the 4th of July weekend I did. The Hotel was completely renovated and will be finished this year. I will start working on the tours as soon as I get the newsletter out for August. We will post all updates on the website along with the menus and Plan of the Day.

Have a great Summer
Stay well Be Safe

You can contact me :
John Pinto
P.O.Box 640813
Beverly Hills, Fl. 34464
352-527-2352
jpinto839@gmail.com

If you are interested in the Raffle items you can mail in your dues of \$20.00 a year plus your item choice and \$ 5.00 per item. Send in to Secretary.

MIKE LILLIS
4695 CHARLIE SMITH SR. HWY.
SAINT MARY'S, GA. 31558

THE SAILOR'S LAMENT

Now each of us from time to time has gazed upon the sea
In addition, watched the warships pulling out to keep our country free
And most of us have read a book or heard a lusty tale
About the men who sail these ships through lightning, wind and hail
But there's a place within each ship that legend fails to teach
Within the shell deep down in Hell where reason cannot reach
It's down below the waterline it takes a living toll
A hot metal living Hell that sailor call the "Hole"

It houses engines run by steam that make the shafts go round
A place of fire, noise and heat that beats your spirit down
Where boilers like a hellish heart and blood of angry steam
Are molded gods without remorse and nightmares in a dream
Whose threat those from the fire's roar is like a living doubt
That any minute would with scorn escape and crush you out
Where turbines scream like tortured souls alone and lost in Hell
As ordered from above somewhere they answer every bell

The men who keep the fires lit and make the engines run
Are strangers to the world of night and rarely see the sun
They have no time for man or God no tolerance for fear
Their aspect pays no living thing the tribute of a tear
For there's not much that men can do that these men haven't done
Beneath the decks deep in the Hole to make the engines run
And every hour of every day they keep the watch in Hell
For if the fires ever fail their ship's a useless shell

When ship's converge to have a war upon an angry sea
The men below just grimly smile at what their fate might be
They're locked below like men foredoomed they hear no battle cry
It's well assumed that if they're hit the men below will die
For every day's a war down there when gauges all read red
Twelve hundred pounds of angry steam can kill you mighty dead
So if you ever write their sons or try to tell their tale
The very words should make you hear a fired furnace wail

And people as a general rule don't hear of hardened souls
So little is heard about the place that Sailors call the Hole
But I can sing about this place and try to make you see
The hardened life of men down there cause one of them is me
I've seen these sweat-soaked heroes fight in superheated air
To keep their ship alive and right through no one knows they're there
And thus they'll fight for ages on till warships sail no more
Amid the boiler's Hellish heat and the turbine's mighty roar
So when you see a ship pull out to meet a warlike foe
Remember briefly if you can "The men who sail below"

The Storekeeper's Report:

USS POWER DD 839 ASSOCIATION SHIPS STORE

ORDER ITEMS THROUGH STOREKEEPER :

Jack VanDevender : email : vancas4@aol.com or Phone Text: 228-860-1130

*** ALL ITEMS PLUS US MAIL COST**



Blue Cap \$18.00



USS Power Patches: Both Designs \$ 5.00 each



**Bumper Stickers:
Large or Small \$ 3.00**



USS Power Challenge Coin \$10.00 includes Protective



**Blue Polo Shirts: Large and XL \$29.00
Blue Polo Shirts: Double XL \$30.00**



**White Polo Shirts: Large and XL \$29.00
White Polo Shirts: Double XL \$30.00**

New Items in stock

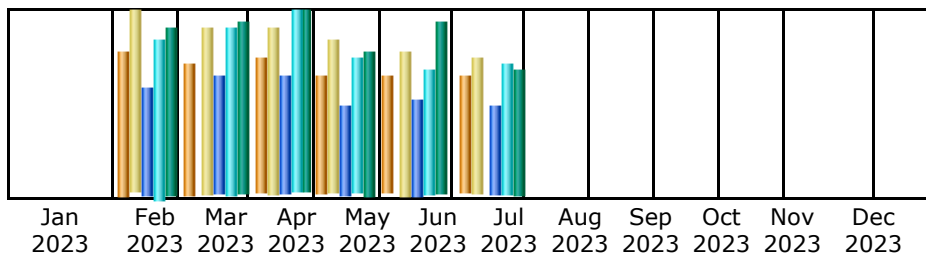


Storekeeper Jack VanDevender

**Blue Caps
Blue Polo Shirts
White Polo Shirts**

Website Update for August 2023

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



Reported
 period Month Jun 2023
 First
 visit 01 Jun 2023 - 06:13
 Last visit 30 Jun 2023 - 20:58

	Unique visitors	Unique visitors	Unique visitors	Unique visitors
Viewed traffic *	382	382	382	382
Top viewed pages*	/history-of-destroyer-s.html	ship-mates.html	/agent-orange.html	

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 website that will connect you to the USS Power Facebook page, [USS Power DD-839](#). Currently, there are 169 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:

Save the date May 6 thru 9; the May 2024 Norfolk, VA Ships reunion will be coming up faster than you think. You may already be aware of this, but all honorably discharged Veterans can shop at the Navy Exchange, which is about six miles from the hotel. And all Veterans with service-connected disabilities have military exchange and commissary shopping privileges.

Bill Kirsch Webmaster

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

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Chaplain's Corner

Our latest Reunion in Colorado was a joy to attend, and we owe our Board and Chairman (John Pinto) for a big Hoorah, for pulling it off. Looking forward to Norfolk Virginia next year and the surprises they have in store. To our biggest surprise and loss, Mike Farrens resigned as Chaplin. After many years leading our Associations prayers and Gospel needs, he decided it was time for him to step back and hand over the duties to a fellow shipmate. During our annual meeting, we had a quick nomination and election. Yours truly was elected and will try to fill the boots lead by Mike.

I am willing to listen to all recommendations or suggestions.

May the Lord bless you and keep you

Merle "Dean" Seals