

# FANTAIL GAZETTE II

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DECEMBER 2011

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**USS MURRAY**



**DD/DDE 576**

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The 2011 USS Murray reunion in Charleston is over. I want to thank all shipmates and family members who attended! I was a little disappointed in the attendance as we only had 18 shipmates and 19 family members who made this reunion a good one. I guess the economy, high air fares, and price of gas kept a lot of shipmates from attending. This was the smallest reunion since we started. In all it was a good reunion as the weather was good. The hotel and staff made sure that we had a wonderful reunion; crew members and family enjoyed the beautiful city of Charleston.

The crew members and family who attended were: John & Jean Tawney, Neil & Cindy DenBleyker, Tim Shaffer, Doug & Nancy Finn, Alex & Sue Dodson, Dennis & Elaine Sheehan, Mike & Betty Hrinko, Bill Dewy, Anne Mourie, Linda Messick, Royce & Mary Rush, Tom & Joan Hockey, John & Marion Gaida, Bill & Joyce Camie, Henry & Georgene Freman, Bob Reyhons, Bob Morrison, Joe & Lorraine Lowden, Al & Beverly Logan, Ray & Janice Green and daughters Diane Reed, Rhonda Martin, Angie Spendiff.

I would also like to thank all those who donated money for the reunion fund. Also thanks to Anne Mourie for her lap quilts that she makes each year, and to Jean Tawney who donated her fudge, peanuts and American flag blankets. That made up our raffle items and everyone who contributed. At the business meeting John Tawney read our financial report and we are still afloat. However it was voted to increase the reunion registration fee to \$15. This is necessary as costs are going up. The registration fee helps pay the cost of name tags but bigger expenses are for hospitably room costs. This includes room rental and clean up, booze, soda, paper products, and audio or visual expenses when needed, so this increase will help pay for these expenses.

I would like to thank Tim Shaffer for hosting the 2012 reunion in Norfolk. Let's get behind him and make the 2012 reunion a success. The dates for the reunion are 19-22 September, 2012 at the Holiday Inn, Norfolk Airport. I am sure he will have more details in the June newsletter. I know most shipmates will remember Norfolk as it was home port for the USS Murray for many years.

Dennis Sheehan stepped up to host the 2013 reunion in Philadelphia. So let's tell Tim and Dennis how much we appreciate these reunions. If you have never attended one, you are really missing out.

Hope to see you there. Stay in good health, happy holidays and have a good year!!!

Thank you all for your support. Call, email, or write any time. Neil DenBleyker, President

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## **IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION!!**

Due to rising costs of publishing and mailing the *Gazette*, the Association officers have initiated steps to verify membership interest in receiving Association news via the newsletter. It was decided to ask recipients who wish to continue receiving the *Gazette* to do one of two things: either contribute \$5.00 *one time only* to the mailing fund, or sign up to have the *Gazette* delivered electronically via email. To remain on our mailing list, please *either* send a \$5 check or money order to the editor:

**Tim Shaffer, PO Box 20159, Albuquerque, NM 87154-0159,**

**or**

send an email to [USSMURRAY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:USSMURRAY@GMAIL.COM) and request the *Gazette* be sent to your email address as a PDF attachment (PDF is a free download at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>).

The check or money order should be made out to **John Tawney**. Please note: we realize that the economy is slow at the moment, so if for whatever reason you can't send \$5 to the mailing fund but wish to receive the *Gazette*, please let us know, we *will* keep you on board!

## **IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION!!**

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### **2011 USS MURRAY CHARLESTON REUNION**



**1st row left to right**

Dennis Sheehan, Elaine Sheehan, John Tawney, Anne Mourie, Sue Dodson, Joyce Cammie, Cindy DenBleyker, Joan Hockey, Beverly Logan, Lorraine Lowden

**2nd row left to right**

Robert Reyhons, Doug Finn, Nancy Finn, Jean Tawney, Alex Dodson, Bill Camie, Neil DenBleyker, Tom Hockey, Al Logan, Joe Lowden

**3rd row left to right**

Linda Messick, Mary Rush, Betty Hrinko, Mike Hirnko, Rhonda Martin, John Gaida, Bob Morrison

**Last row left to right**

Royce Rush, Tim Shaffer, Henry Freeman, Bill Dewey, Angie Spendiff, Ray Green, Janice Green, Diane Reed



## PASSED AWAY

**BIERLY**, Harold 2010; **CRUMMENAUER**, Thomas 2010;  
**DAGAN**, Leonard 2009; **GASTON**, Claudie 2011; **LEROY**,  
Arthur 2010; **MARZANO**, Robert 2010; **ROUCH**, Marvin  
2011

## NEW FINDS

**HOTCHKISS**, ARTHUR (SARANAC, MI)

As always, thanks to shipmate Billy D Houston for assisting in compiling this information! Contact Billy or the editor for more information about the above name.

Do you have a former shipmate that you would like to contact? Write, call, or email Billy at: 319 E Farming St, Marion OH, 43302-2501; Telephone: (740) 382-1474; email:

[Tincanman61@aol.com](mailto:Tincanman61@aol.com) with as much information as possible about the person you are trying to locate. Please include - if known - full name, age, home of record at enlistment/commission and any other information that might help Billy locate an individual.



## EDITOR'S NOTES *(by Tim Shaffer)*

A complete list of all known shipmates living and departed is available from the association. Cost for this list - which includes contact information - is \$6.00 per copy, postpaid. Back issues of the **Fantail Gazette II** published since November 2007 are also available for \$6.00 postpaid for all seven. Please contact me for copies.

**Checks for these items and/or donations to the USS MURRAY Association mailing fund should be made out to: John Tawney.**

Member input for the **GAZETTE** is always welcome: I'm still looking for pictures of the **Murray** and crew members, anecdotes and stories, or what have you. I will print them as space permits! Please assist in making our newsletter more interesting!

The **USS MURRAY** is on **facebook!** Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and type in *uss murray* in the search bar. Thanks to John Connelly for hosting our **facebook** site as well as the **USS Murray** website: [www.ussmurray.com](http://www.ussmurray.com)



(Photo courtesy of James Flatly)

## MURRAY MEMORIES

Bremen, Germany... 1954, just nine years after the end of WWII, as the caption above reads: **"For the first time since the war: two US destroyers on an official visit to Bremen"**



(Photo courtesy of John Gaida)

And four Murray men who served as honor guard on that port visit:

Left to right: Hocky, Gaida, Buffum, and Smith (two of whom were at the 2011 Charleston reunion)

## 2012/2013 REUNIONS

**NORFOLK FOR THE 2012 REUNION!** As reunion planner for the 2012 event, I want to offer two bus tours for this reunion: one of Williamsburg and a second around Norfolk city (including both the harbor by boat and the naval base by bus). To get an idea of possible participation on these tours, I would like to hear from those who think that they might attend the reunion and would be interested in one or both of the tours. The Williamsburg guided tour would be by bus on Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and cost \$39 per person, lunch not included. The Norfolk guided tour would be by bus and boat from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and includes lunch, for \$69 per person. Tours *are* limited-mobility and wheelchair accessible. Please send me a card or email if you are interested in either or both of these tours. ***This does not commit you to a tour or even attending the reunion, I just need an estimate of who is interested in the tours.*** Mail: Tim Shaffer, PO Box 20159, Albuquerque, NM 87154 or email: ussmurray@gmail.com

The 2013 reunion will be held in Philadelphia, PA, by Dennis Sheehan. Details about this event will be provided at a later date.