

FANTAIL GAZETTE II

DECEMBER 2012



USS MURRAY

DD/DDE 576

PRESIDENT'S LETTER (By Neil DenBleyker)

The 2012 reunion is over. All the shipmates and family that were unable to attend missed a great one. Tim as usual did a wonderful job, and we are going to miss him. We wish him the best as he moves to South America and hope he makes it back to the states in time for the reunion in Philly.

Everything was great, the hotel and its staff, the weather and the hospitality of the city of Norfolk. The attendees really really enjoyed the bus trip for a tour of the Naval base and the trip to Nauticus downtown on the water front where the USS Wisconsin is berthed. A lot of crew members and family took advantage of the river boat tour and were also able to walk around downtown. Downtown Norfolk sure has changed since we were stationed there.

The shipmates and Family that attended this years reunion were - Tim Shaffer & his wife Carol Langer, Neil & Cindy DenBleyker, Doug & Nancey Finn, Ray & Patricia Ward, Royce & Mary Rush, John M. Borrelli & John A. Borrelli, Frank & Elvyn Correll, Art & Joan Hodges, Ray & Barbra Moore, Anne Mourie & Linda Messick, Joe & Frances Tyran, Stanly & Stella Auber, Alex & Sue Dodson, Al & Beverly Logan, Art & Agnes Sargent, Joe & Lorraine Lowden, John & Marion Gaida, John & Sylvia Ferich, John & Linda Connelly, Jean & Marvin Tawney, Dave Duffy, Dan Fagen, Jerry & Pat Kenney, Bill Bensick & Evelyn Hall, and Dennis & Elaine Sheehan.

We also had 4 crew members that were 1st timers. One of the 1st timers is John Ferich who volunteered to take over as editor of the Fantail Gazette II. Welcome aboard John. Another 1st timer was John M. Borrelli, a WW II Vet who attended his 1st reunion. It shows that it's never too late to attend a reunion.

So all you crew members that haven't been to a reunion, start planning for next years reunion in Philadelphia. Dennis Sheehan has already been working really hard on the 2013 reunion. The dates

are 9/12/2013--9/14/2013 at Holiday Inn Historic District. More details will be in the June newsletter.

Dan Fagen will host the 2014 reunion in ST. Louis Mo.

I would like to thank all crew members & family that donated items for our raffle. All you crafters we appreciate your work. Our raffle made \$259.00 for the reunion fund. I also would like to thank Art Hodges who hand carved and painted caricatures of sailors and donated them, We had a separate raffle for the carvings with proceeds going to the mail fund. I know that Art spent a lot of time on these and everybody wanted one. The raffle netted \$135.00 for the mail fund. Thank You again Art. Job well done. I also would like to thank the crew members who made donations to the Reunion fund.

I wish all crew members & family a Happy Holiday. Stay in good health and hope to see you in Philly.

Thanks again for your support. Call, email or write any time.

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- NEW GAZETTE II EDITOR -

In the June 2012 Fantail Gazette II issue there was a 'Help Wanted' ad for a new editor for the newsletter since Tim Shaffer and his wife Carol were leaving for South America immediately after the USS Murray Reunion completion in Norfolk this past September.

I recall my first few days in Boot Camp, I was told by someone about the first rule in the military, which was 'NEVER, NEVER volunteer for ANYTHING'. I guess I've been out of the Navy too long, because I forgot the rule and somehow got myself volunteered to be the new editor. My name is John Ferich and I was an ETN2 on the Murray from 1961 to 1964.

I've got some big shoes to fill. Thank you very much Tim for your five years of editorship and entertainment in the Fantail Gazette II. Hope you and Carol enjoy your stay in South America.

- P A S S E D A W A Y -

The following Murray crew members have passed away, so have joined previously deceased crew members in Davy Jones locker.

DUCKETT, Francis, (CS3 '58-'62), 2011; HARSH, Lloyd, (1943-46), 2012; STEWART, Lyman 2007;

Again, thanks to shipmate Billy D Houston for assisting in compiling this information! Contact Billy for more information about the above names. 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 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.

- 2012 Reunion in Norfolk -

This was my first year to attend a USS Murray Reunion, and I'm really glad I finally got to attend. Getting reunited with friends from my years on the Murray was really exciting. I can honestly say that I would not have recognized anyone without their name-tags on, but it was really great getting to meet shipmates again that were on the ship when I was, and it was nice meeting ship members from the years before I was on the ship.

There were about 45-50 shipmates and/or family in attendance, with lots of time to get to tell tall tales recalled from days on the ship. We had a nice bus tour of the old D&S Piers, the Naval Base and Naval Air Station in addition to a trip to downtown Norfolk. If you haven't been back to Norfolk since the Murray days, you will not recognize much at all. The street names are the same but everything else has changed. We got to take a tour of the battleship USS Wisconsin (BB-64) which is berthed at Nauticus, a naval science and technology center and museum on the downtown Norfolk waterfront.

Most of the attendees were able to get together for the picture on the following page.

(Since this was my first reunion attendance, please forgive me if I have identified any of the attendees incorrectly or mis-spelled the names. If so, please let me know in an email to 'john.ferich@gmail.com'.)



**USS Murray DD-576 Reunion
September 2012
Norfolk, Virginia**

Front Row - Seated Left to Right; 1- Sue Dodson, 2- Pat Kennedy, 3- Anne Mourie, 4- Lorraine Loudon, 5- Beverly Logan, 6- Elaine Sheehan, 7- Evelyn Correll, 8- Stella Huber, 9- Jean Tawney, 10- Nancy Finn, 11- Frances Tyran, 12- Sylvia Ferich.

Middle 2 rows (Count heads, Left to Right); 13- Alex Dodson, 14- Jerry Kennedy, 15- Linda Messick, 16- John Gaida, 17- Linda Connelly, 18- John Connelly, 19- Dave Duffy, 20- Dan Fagen, 21- Dennis Sheehan, 22- Mary Rush, 23- Frank Correll, 24- Joan Hodges, 25- Royce Rush, 26- John M. Borrelli, 27- Art Hodges, 28- John A. Borrelli, 29- Evelyn Hall, 30- Cynthia DenBleyker, 31- Neil DenBleyker, 32- John Ferich.

Top row - 33- Marvin Tawney, 34- Doug Finn, 35- Tim Shaffer, 36- Joe Loudon, 37- Al Logan, 38- Barbara Moore, 39- Art Moore, 40- Ray Ward, 41- Bill Bedsick, 42- Stanley Huber, 43- Joe Tyran.

Looking forward to seeing **YOU** in next year's reunion picture in Philadelphia, Sep 12-14, 2013 at the Holiday Inn Historic District. More details will be provided in the June Fantail Gazette II.

Until next issue - **Happy Holidays**

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