

FANTAIL GAZETTE II

JUNE 2014



USS MURRAY

DD/DDE 576

- PRESIDENT'S LETTER - *(By Neil DenBleyker)*

Crew members and family - - It's Reunion time again.

This year's reunion is being held in St. Louis, MO from Sept 11-13, 2014 and is being hosted by Dan Fagan. We would like to give Dan our condolences on the passing of his wife in March of this year. Our prayers and thoughts are with him. I know that Dan has worked very hard on planning this reunion. All you crew members and family who haven't attended a reunion recently should plan on meeting the crew in St. Louis, as we need participation to be able to continue the reunions. I know that "father time" is catching up with our crew members, with the youngest crew being in their late 60's and early 70's, so plan on attending as we may not have many reunions left with enough participation to obtain reduced hotel rates and banquet facilities.

This years reunion is at:
Crowne Plaza St. Louis Downtown
200 N. Fourth St.
St. Louis, MO 63102
Phone 1-800-925-1395

The cut off date for making your reservations with the hotel is August 20. Make sure when you call for your reservations be sure to mention the USS Murray to get the negotiated rate of \$109.00+ tax for king or queen size beds. 40 percent of the rooms have large balconies so if you want a balcony please ask. There is free self parking in an attached garage. Also a free full breakfast buffet (2 vouchers per room). The hotel is 1 block from St. Louis Arch and within walking distance to Busch Stadium, Edward Jones Dome and more than 30 Restaurants and bars, in addition to lots of entertainment, so there is a lot to do and see. The hotel will honor the group rate 2 days prior and 2 days after the reunion.

Please complete the reunion Registration Form included in at the back of the Gazette and send it with your check made out to 'USS Murray Reunion Fund', before August 8.

Send registration form and check to: Doug Finn, 609 Mohawk Trail, Shelburne Falls Ma. 01320-8905

Remember, the cut off date for sending back the reunion registration form is Aug 8, 2014 and the cut off date for making your hotel reservations is August 20.

Also a reminder for all you craft persons, we can use your donated crafts for our raffle or auctions to help with our expenses.

Lets make this one of our better reunions. Dan has worked very hard so that members will enjoy the hospitality that St.Louis has to offer. Our membership is declining due to age and health reasons, and members passing on. If you have never attended a reunion now is the time to do so.

If you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance let me know. Hope to see you in St.Louis!

Neil DenBleyker President
phone --315-673-2181
Email --Ndenblke@aol.com

- Editor Comments - (by John Ferich)

Hello Shipmates!

Those of you that have come to a reunion know that we do not have a large budget to maintain operations for mailings and future reunions, as hotels usually require us to reserve 40 or 50 rooms and similar numbers of banquet attendees. The best way to insure we can meet requirements for future reunions is for you to attend this year's reunion in St Louis.

If you have any ideas for articles to include in future Fantail Gazette issues like the article attached, about the new Zumwalt (DDG-1000) class Destroyer, please let me know.

- 2014 Reunion in St. Louis, MO -

Again our sincere condolences to Dan Fagan in the loss of his wife. Dan has been working diligently, making arrangements as the host of the USS Murray Reunion for 2014, in St. Louis, Missouri, scheduled for 9/11-14, 2014.

As Neil mentioned, we are all getting up in years, making it more difficult to travel, so you really should try to make it to St Louis to renew friendships with shipmates, and rehash all the shipboard and liberty experiences you had during your time on the Murray.

St Louis is more convenient for Midwestern crewmembers than the previous four or five reunions that have all been on the east coast, so you can't use that excuse this year.

Hope to see you in St Louis.

- Davey Jones Locker -

The following Murray crew members have been reported as having passed away since the last Fantail Gazette II.

Arimond, Donald - Jan 12, 2014
Busha, Richard - Dec 2008
Cleland, Marshall - Feb 12, 2014 - Gunnery Officer 1943-1945
Duddleson, William - April 12, 2014
Elliott, Sam - Jan 2013
Graybeal, Kenneth - April 30, 2014
Meteva, Phil - July 2013

Thanks to shipmate Billy Houston for assisting in compiling this information! If there a former shipmate that you would like to locate, 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 find. Please include - if known - full name, age, home of record at enlistment/commission and any other information that might help Billy locate the individual.

Until next issue - **Have a great summer**
Editor, John Ferich - john.ferich@gmail.com - Cellphone (561) 504-7351

How about this for some US Navy Destroyer specs: 610 Ft Length, 80 Ft Beam, 15,000 Tons displacement, Stealth Hull and Superstructure, Electromagnetic Rail Gun that will be able to propel projectiles 125 miles at 7.5x the Speed of Sound.

Check out the following info taken from an article written by CNN.

Navy's new stealth destroyer designed for the video gamer generation

The Navy's new super stealthy destroyer, the USS Zumwalt (DDG-1000), has a lot in common with Hollywood's starship Enterprise, including the fact that the Zumwalt commanders name is Capt. James A Kirk (vs. James T Kirk from the Enterprise). Aside from that coincidence, the Zumwalt's Operations Center utilizes Enterprise-like advanced technology that takes multitasking to a deadly new level on the high seas.



Photo: U.S. Navy's new stealth destroyer

First launched in 2013, it is a massive \$3 billion warship -- the largest type of destroyer in the modern Navy by about 65%. One big advantage of a Zumwalt class destroyer is that it requires only a very small crew. Compared with about 300 sailors needed for similar warships, the Zumwalt's minimum compliment is only 130.

The smaller crew is made possible by advanced automated systems which "make it much easier and much more effective for the sailors to operate," according to Navy Capt. Wade Knudson, Zumwalt program director for Pentagon contractor, Raytheon. Smaller crews reduce a major component of operating costs. Ammunition, food, and other stores, are all mounted in containers able to be struck below to magazine/storage areas by an automated cargo handling system.

In the Operations Center, sailors are surrounded by an array of video displays that have been designed to be used by a generation raised on video games. Raytheon tested the technology configuration in the Ops Center with young, 'gamer' sailors, Knudson says. "We've brought them down to our labs and we got direct feedback from them using human-factor engineers in order to make sure that we've integrated all the displays and information in a way that they can use the systems most effectively."

The result is less chance of making errors on the ship. "The system and the computer provide information to the sailor in a way that they're used to." Work stations inside the Ops Center are outfitted with three common displays, Knudson says. "You can sit down at any of the systems to perform operations."

At 610 feet long and 80 feet wide, the Zumwalt is about 100 feet longer and 20 feet wider than the current fleet of Arleigh Burke-class destroyers. (*Gazette editor note: Fletcher Class Destroyers like the Murray were 377 Ft long, 40 Ft wide with displacement of 2,500 tons vs Zumwalt 15,000 tons*). Although huge, the ship is surprisingly stealthy. Much of the hull and superstructure is built on angles that help make it 50 times harder to spot on radar than an ordinary destroyer. It has the radar cross-section of a fishing boat.

Workstations in the Zumwalt's Ops Center are part of the ship's Common Display System (CDS) and are operated using trackballs and specialized button panels, or can be interfaced using touchscreens. The whole operations center technology array saves manpower by allowing sailors to monitor radar, multiple weapons systems and sensors, and includes wireless networking capability. The ship could be steered from the Ops Center or the Bridge since the ship is piloted by a computer, not a helmsman. CDS displays are also built into the CO and XO's chairs on the bridge.

In its current configuration, the Zumwalt will carry a considerable arsenal of weapons, including two Advanced Gun Systems (AGS), which can fire rocket-powered, computer-guided shells that can destroy targets 63 miles away. That's three times farther than ordinary destroyer guns can fire.

Plans are that one day it will be fitted with advanced weapons systems, currently experimental, including a laser weapon and an electromagnetic railgun. Electromagnetic railguns don't need explosive warheads or explosive propellants to fire them from the ship. These fearsome weapons inflict damage by sheer speed. The railgun uses electromagnetic force to propel a projectile 125 miles at 7.5 times the speed of sound, according to the Navy. The laser weapon -- which could be fired by one sailor on a video game-like console -- is designed to take on aircraft or small surface vessels.

Currently undergoing sea testing, Knudson says the Zumwalt is expected to join the rest of the Navy fleet sometime in 2016.

Original CNN article - <http://www.cnn.com/2014/06/14/tech/zumwalt-operations-center/index.html>

Meet Capt Kirk - <http://www.cnn.com/2013/10/31/us/uss-zumwalt-capt-kirk/>

Wikipedia url for Zumwalt Class Destroyers - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zumwalt_class_destroyer

Registration Form for 2014 USS Murray Annual Ships Reunion.

Sept. 11 to 13, 2014 - St. Louis, MO

Please make checks payable to 'USS Murray Reunion Fund' and send with this registration sheet before August to:

Doug Finn
609 Mohawk Trail
Shelburne Falls, MA 01370-8905

Crew Member Name _____

Guest Name _____

Number attending Reunion _____ x \$15.00 = _____

Number attending Banquet _____ x \$48.00 = _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Rank/Rate _____ Years on Board _____ to _____