NEWSLETTER

3rd Issue 26th Year 01 June 2018

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From the President: We are settled into our new home, yet our rented storage unit is still three quarters full! Sorry, George! You were a little too far away to rent one of your units. Some things still need to find a home or a wall to hang on, but that will come in time.

The builder put down sod a few weeks ago, and I think I may need to start a "Go Fund Me" site to pay for the water bill! Not really, but it sounds like a good idea. Joy has the flower beds ready, and she is planting as I type this report.

2018 Reunion: Sept. 19 - Sept. 23

Ron has everything ready for Georgia, so make your reservations and send him your check. At the same time, Alex Paszly has our 2019 reunion well on the way. Is there anybody out there who would like to take a shot at 2020? We can help you, and you have a good 2.5 years to set it up.

This is just a little "pat on the back" to Dorothy for putting the newsletter together again. Lots of prodding to the officers and anybody she can wrangle a bio or Navy story from. THANKS, DOROTHY! We couldn't do it without you!

New finds: **None to report.**

Jim Dunno, President

Vice President's Words of Wisdom:

Tom Stachelski, Vice President's Words of Wisdom: Hello, all! So, 2018 has been a whirlwind year so far, but I remain on my feet. I'm happy that Dorothy is back on her feet and doing her usual good work. Our membership currently is at 78. The 2017 Buffalo Reunion pics are on the Sitkin Website.

I'm very much looking forward to the September reunion. See you in Columbus!

Tom Stachelski, Vice President

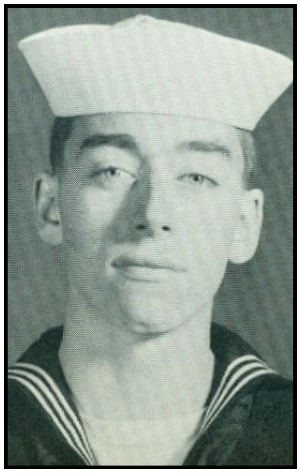
Secretary Report: I'm looking forward to the next reunion in Columbus, Georgia. Many activities are planned. Registration and "welcome to all" begins on Wednesday, September 19th.

Nominations for Officers: Nominations for the Executive Board positions are now open. All positions are up for reelection every year. Present officers may be reelected. Only active members who have annual dues current are eligible to serve. All nominations for office must be received by the Association's Secretary (me), no later than August 20, 2018.

Nominations must be in writing and sent by either the postal service or Email. All nominees will be contacted by the Secretary to insure their acceptance of the nomination and their willingness to serve. If you have any questions concerning nominations or serving, please contact me.

Joseph Rios, Secretary

Greetings from Repair 3: **50 Years!!**



On so many different levels, fifty years of something is a big deal!

50 years old! Geez, it seems so long ago. Back then, 2000, one of our boys was still living at home. Our other son was only two years into his marriage. I got my AARP card! 50th birthday, no big deal, except the fact that now, this was 18 years ago!

Other Big 50's are more meaningful these days. On June 12, it'll be 50 years since I graduated from high school. 50 years ago, January 23rd, North Korea had captured the USS Pueblo (AGER-2), a fact that made my entry in the US Navy on July 1, 1968, all the more poignant.

January 30th was the start of the Tet Offensive, a fact that made my choice to "Go Navy" that much more of a good plan, but that's all national stuff. This is a Great Sitkin newsletter. 50 years ago this summer, Great Sitkin was underway on her one and only WestPac cruise. 50 years ago this day, May 17th, she was moored at Nabasan Wharf, Naval Magazine Subic Bay. She was actually in WestPac from March 11 to November 27 of 1968. Seems like a milestone we might want to remember at this year's reunion. That being said, if you were part of the crew that year, this might be THE YEAR for you to make a trip to our reunion!

As your treasurer, this is my piece for the newsletter. There is another big "Five O" I'll be commemorating. On September 16, 1968, I reported aboard Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois, for my boot camp experience. I began my journey in the greatest Navy in the world and my future as a Sailor on the USS Great Sitkin. But, that's a "Five O" story for a few years from now.

Have a safe, happy summer. Remember our men and women who are serving our country now, making their own memories for their own "Five O's." They are heroes for our time!

George Kaiser, Treasurer

The Chaplain's Corner: "Good Day to all of you."

I am glad for the warm weather we're having. It was a long, cold winter. A lot of family and friends have been sick. Hope you all are doing well!

I enjoyed the great articles that have been in the newsletters. Alex and Jay Bird's stories were great. I can relate to "water hours." One of my first jobs aboard the Sitkin was running the evaporators making fresh water. It's an amazing thing to go from high school to running a "still." That's what I figured out after studying the manufacturing book while standing watches making water. It was just a distillery! Who would have thought?

As for "water hours" we had a shower head plumbed up in the lower level of the engine room and could take nice showers. That's all I am going to say about that. The Lord can always supply our needs.

We are all saddened by the sudden passing of Walter Carlson in March. They lost Jimmy in December 2017. Please keep Eleanor in your prayers.

John 11:25-26 *"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: [26]And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?*

God has truly blessed our nation and continues to watch over us.

If you haven't been to a reunion, you need to come! You won't regret it nor will you forget it. See ya in Columbus, Georgia!

It's time to say good bye for now.

Let's keep those families in our prayers that have lost a loved one who sailed aboard the Great Sitkin.

May the Lord Bless and Keep You.

Honor Roll Update:

Walter B. Carlson, DC3, '52 - '54
Normand I. Gaulin, CS3, '62
Henry F. Osborne, FN, '66 - '67

Mark Rucker, Chaplain

2018 Sitkin Reunion Update: Time sure seems to fly by as we get older. By the time you get this edition of the newsletter, the Reunion is only a few months away.

Please send in your Reunion Registration and make your Hotel Reservations as soon as you firm up your travel itinerary. Last date to register for attending the 2018 Reunion is August 27th - so if you are going to wait to the last minute, include Uncle Snail Mail time so it gets to me before the 27th. Cut off for Hotel Reservations to get our special rate is August 27th also. Make your reservations now so you can guarantee you get the special rate. Hope to see you all at the 2018 Reunion. We are going to have a great time!

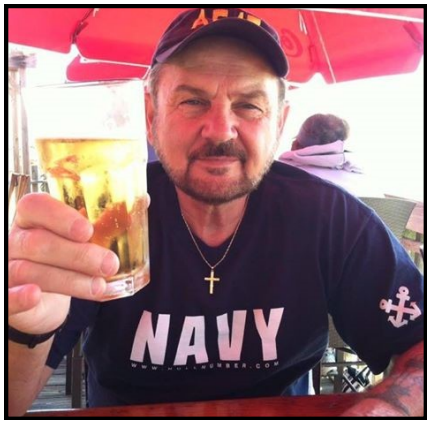
Ron & Sally Zimmerman
2018 Reunion Hosts

Comments from the Editor:

Thanks for the Memories!!

Jimmy Carlson, John Kelly,
Mike Hodnichak, Walter Carlson

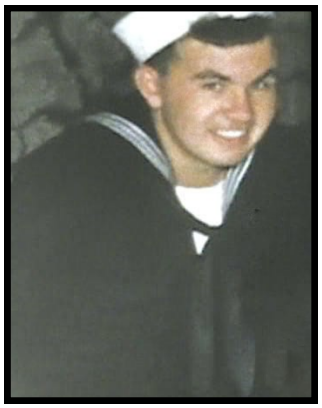
Dorothy Hodnichak, Editor



Salute!

See you at the USS Great Sitkin Reunion!

Fred Gallagher



Nicholas (Nick) Huzinec, CS2 - Aboard USS Great Sitkin '55 - '56

In 1952, I was working for Johnson and Johnson. With the Korean Conflict going on and rather than being drafted, I joined the Navy. 8 July 1952, I completed all the necessary paperwork in the old federal building in New York City. After that I was bused to boot camp in Bainbridge, Maryland.

After completing boot camp, I went to commissary school in Bayonne. Then I was sent to the Naval Operating Base in Norfolk, Virginia, Unit I Galley. In Unit I Galley, we fed approximately 5,000 transits their noon meal. I worked in the galley between duty stations and shore duty personnel.

In March 1954, I received TAD (temporary additional duty) orders to report to Underwater Explosive Barge No. 1 at Portsmouth, Virginia. The barge had two outriggers on the stern with what they called a railroad crane. The Naval crew was an ENS Steward's Mate, Radiomen and a Cook. We were towed to GITMO by a Navy seagoing tug operating between Cuba and Haiti. On returning from TAD orders, I was put into the bake shop. After a while, I went on as a night baker. There were two bakers and two mess cooks on a watch. This was considered good duty. Weekend liberty began on Friday at 0400 and ended at 1800 on Monday. We made good friends and contacts with shore duty personnel. They came in for coffee in the evening after East Main Street closed.

October 1954, I received orders to report to LST-515 (Landing Ship, Tank or tank landing ship) at the Army piers in Norfolk, Virginia. The LST-515 participated in the Invasion of Normandy in June 1944. Upon her return to the U.S., she was redesignated USS Caddo Parish (LST-515) on 1 July 1955, and her job was to move equipment material for Seabees up and down the coast. The ship was decommissioned on 20 October, 1955 and recommissioned on 2 August 1963 where the USS Caddo Parish (LST-515) performed service in Vietnam.

USS Caddo Parish (LST 515)

July 1955, I received orders to board the USS Great Sitkin (AE-17). My first day will never be forgotten. We were loading at the pier when a fire alarm sounded, then later in the day, an alarm of fire and rescue. That really shook me up! We were tied up at Red Hook, Brooklyn. We left for the Med just before the Dodgers beat the Yankees in the World Series. Can you imagine what liberty that night would have been?

The Sitkin came back within a few months to discharge in Bayonne. I was in my bunk on the ship the night before my discharge from the Navy. The public address system came on with an alarm of fire in the paint locker. The Sitkin welcomed me with an alarm of fire, and I was discharged with an alarm of fire! I returned government property which consisted of two blankets and one pillow and returned to civilian life.

I went back to work at Johnson and Johnson, Ethicon Division, where I retired after 44 years. During those years, I married, raised a family and became active in my community. In 1995, there was an ad in the American Legion Magazine for a USS Great Sitkin (AE-17) reunion in Branson, Missouri. In 1996, my wife, Catherine, joined me at the 1996 Sitkin reunion held in New London, CT. I was elected Vice President under Glenn Frankenbach, former President of the Association.

We attended all the reunions since that time, and we had the best times! The programs were wonderful, and we were able to see a lot of this country. On our trips to the reunion, we often made side trips to see different places. I remember the year 2002; our reunion was in Omaha, Nebraska. We had dinner and a 30-mile round trip on the Fremont Dinner Train. The décor was from the 40's with music from the big band era. We viewed the Durham Museum which was located in a 1931 train station. There were many displays on the history of Omaha. We visited the Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum (SAC). It was huge with many planes displayed from the earliest planes to the Stealth spy plane. One of our side trips back home was to go up in the arch in St. Louis, Missouri.

We always look forward every year to the Sitkin reunions where we see old friends and meet new friends. The annual reunion has become the "best part of the year!"

A SITKIN TALE

First, I want to emphasize that Ken Carlson and I were very good friends. As friends, we continually teased each other. We both enjoyed shooting our .22 cal target pistols. On occasion, we shot off the fantail while at sea and always competed against each other. I have to admit that he was always the better shot. When the ship was in port in Bayonne, we would get together and shoot at the base indoor target range. Ammunition was never a problem since the Great Sitkin had plenty.

While deployed in the Med, to the best of my memory, one of Buddy Love's guys brought me a box of "stuff" they found in the hold. Buddy Love was the Ordnance Officer and had determined that it was old weapons handling equipment from WWII, no longer required. He suggested that in the process of getting rid of it, I might find a way to razz Ken, who was not yet aware of this "stuff."

I quickly saw an opportunity to have some fun with Ken. So, I had my guys fix up some "dummy" DD 1348-1 shipping documents, assigned appropriate dummy ordnance Federal Stock Numbers and labeled the items as "Special Weapons Handling Equipment." We tore off the top copies and only included the crumbled pink shipping documents in the box. We put appropriate packing material inside and made the box look as authentic as possible. I also had our guys prepare the necessary "Custody Signature Cards" for Ken to sign when he took possession of the contents of the box.

When everything was ready, we waited until the next underway replenishment. The following day when everything had settled down, I took the opened box and accompanying paperwork to Ken and asked him to sign the required Custody Cards. Ken looked at the equipment and, of course, did not recognize it. He was hesitant to sign the Custody Cards because he could not identify it and was not expecting any new Special Weapons Handling Equipment. He suggested that I leave it with him while he did some research to identify it and find out why it was sent to the Great Sitkin. I agreed and suggested that it was probably "pushed to the ship to support a new capability." I explained that frequently when a "ship alteration" is planned, the "system" would start pushing parts in anticipation of the new capability. Ken reacted as I hoped. Now he was going to spend hours trying to identify the "stuff." While I did not know how it would play out, I just waited for Ken to get back to me.

I let a few days go by and then asked Ken for the signed Custody Cards. Ken said he was not ready to sign because he was still unable to identify the items. I knew he was trying because every time I went by his Stateroom, I could see the box on his desk along with all kinds of Ordnance books he was using in his research. We went back and forth for well over a week. Every time I asked for the signed cards, Ken insisted on more time. Finally it reached a point when I told Ken if I did not get the signed cards soon, I would throw the damn stuff over the side. During this time, my guys were all asking me how the ruse was going.

I began to suspect that Ken would not sign the cards, so I had to pick the right time to toss the box overboard. In order to stay out of trouble, I had to bring the XO in on the gag. When I informed LCdr. Bill Yuengling, he advised me not to let this get out of hand. When we anchored off some coast in the Med, either France or Italy, I walked into Ken's room and told him that unless he signed the cards "**right now**," I would throw it over the side. He said he couldn't sign until he identified the items. I said, **"OK!!"**, picked up the box, walked out of his room with him right behind, walked out to the STBD side and threw the whole box overboard.

I wish you all could have seen Ken's face - shock and bewilderment! "**What are you doing?**" I replied that I was just keeping my promise to toss it if he didn't sign the cards. Within a very short time, Ken had put on his wet suit and tanks and was ready to go over the side to retrieve the "Special Weapons Handling Equipment." At that point, the XO stepped in and said, "I think this has gone far enough," and we had to confess our elaborate prank to Ken.

Ken was ticked off for a little while, but true to good Navy tradition, he patiently bided his time to get even. The night before I left the ship for Vietnam, while I was at my farewell party ashore with all the Wardroom officers, he had his guys put a 250 lb. practice bomb in my bunk. You can well imagine what it was like to try, in my inebriated state, to get into my bunk and sleep with a 250 lb. bomb. At one of our Great Sitkin reunions, Buddy Love told me that Ken had wanted a 500 lb. bomb, but Buddy wouldn't give it to him. A belated thank you, Buddy!

The picture above shows me being piped off the ship the next morning on my way to Vietnam. I'm shaking Ken's hand. There is no mistake that we are grinning at each other. We can dish it out, and we can take it. This is one of my fondest memories. Could it be that all my fellow officers were seeing me off just to make sure I left?

By: Alexander K. Paszly, LT
Aboard the USS Great Sitkin (AE-17) '63 - '65

Captain Elbert H. English Jr.

Commanding Officer of the USS Great Sitkin (AE-17) July '64 - July '65

Captain English was born in Jefferson, Arkansas and attended Henderson State Teachers College in Arkadelphia, Arkansas for three years before joining the Navy in 1940. He was assigned to the battleship, USS West Virginia (BB-48) as a junior gunnery officer when the ship was sunk during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He was commended for salvage work on the ship which was raised May 30, 1942.

Later he graduated from Naval Aviator's School in Pensacola, Florida and subsequently flew combat missions in the Pacific, including cover and support missions for invasion operations at the Mariana, Leyte, Luzon, Iwo Jima and Okinawa Islands.

Captain English served 31 years in the Navy before retiring in 1971. He received the Navy Cross, the service's highest award for valor, after the Medal of Honor, for action in combat near Tokyo Bay on 17 February 1945, as a pilot assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Wasp (LHD-1). The Navy Cross citation read: "Skillfully and courageously flying his plane during a fighter-bomber attack against an enemy aircraft carrier, [he] braved intense anti-aircraft fire to score a direct bomb hit, which contributed materially to the sinking of the vessel immediately after the attack." A day earlier, also flying from the flight deck of the Wasp, Captain English participated in action that would earn him the Distinguished Flying Cross.

The citation for that award read: "Diving through intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire to press home a damaging strafing attack upon an enemy airfield, [he] engaged in aerial combat and shot down an enemy aircraft, thereby contributing to the success of that operation."

Postwar duty included teaching at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington DC, an assignment in the Bureau of Naval Personnel, command of the ammunition ship, the USS Great Sitkin (AE-17) and the aircraft carrier; USS Lake Champlain (CV-39), which participated in the recovery of astronauts at sea after their space flights.

In 1967, he graduated from George Washington University with a degree in political science. After his Navy retirement, Captain English sold real estate in Northern Virginia. He had lived in the Washington area since 1959. He died of cardiac arrest June 17, 2002. Captain English was 83 years old. He was married to his wife, Lillian English, for 59 years. Mrs. English passed away in 2009. Their son, Elbert H. English III, died in 1991.

Photos below were taken in the Supply Office. The ship is underway! Our "baker" prepared a farewell cake. I received orders to Vietnam. So many memories!

Front row: LT Alex Paszly, CS3 Normand ("Frenchy") Gaulin

2nd row: SK3 Mike Epperson, ?? SK3 Dan Williams, SN Phil Gutt, CS1 Sasbino Oka

3rd row: "Cook," ENS Roger Morris, SK1 Tom Wiggins, LTJG Ed O'Brien, "Cook," DK2 Doug Wales

LT Alex Paszly, CS3 Normand ("Frenchy") Gaulin, Executive Officer, CDR William Yuengling, Captain Elbert English, Jr.

Photos contributed by LT Alex Paszly

Michael H. Kleinbeck, HM2, Aboard USS Sitkin 3/70 - 7/71

A Junior Hospital Corpsman's Life Aboard and After the USS Great Sitkin

I reported aboard USS Great Sitkin (AE 17) as an HM3 in early 1970, fresh from a year-long tour at U.S. Hospital Guantanamo Bay. Sixteen months later, as an HM2, I flew home for my discharge as the Med cruise entered its final weeks. I thought I would share some of my memories from my time aboard.

Living Conditions: Being a corpsman had distinct advantages. I was exempt from standing watches because of the Geneva Convention, which meant plenty of free time. The HMC and I both slept in the six-bed sick bay, shared a shower and head. I had privacy and room to move about. The medical refrigerator was a perfect spot to store soft drinks. I had a nice side business selling soda until the XO shut me down! The medical laboratory/office across the passageway from sick bay was my hangout. It was filled with stereo equipment, a typewriter I used to write letters, and frequently a couple of shipmates just hanging around.

Routine Sick Call: Sick call after a weekend in Bayonne or liberty in port always meant I needed a supply of the "flying five" hangover treatment. As I recall, the recipe was two vitamin C tablets, two aspirin tablets, and a Darvon capsule, but feel free to correct me if I'm wrong. I received the occasional visit a few days after a port call asking me to "check this out." The result was frequently a large dose of penicillin. I honed my suture skills on several occasions and still have a Polaroid photo of someone's foot labeled, "one of my better jobs." For the most part, we had few major health issues as you might expect from a ship whose Sailors were almost all in their late teens, 20's and 30's.

Not So Routine: On one occasion, we hauled CW02 Charles Stephanski from the engine room in a stretcher when he suffered from heat exhaustion. I believe we had a fire in one of the boilers at the time. One young seaman said he needed a referral to the doctor because he couldn't hear. I rinsed his ears to remove two plugs of ear wax the size of pencil erasers. Another time, several crewmembers asked me to intervene with a new arrival whose personal hygiene was lacking. He told me he did shower, but with Lava soap! I do believe he was later washed with a deck brush, which changed his approach to cleanliness.

Odd Jobs: As the junior corpsman, I had all the odd jobs that required a corpsman: fire and other emergency teams; standing by on the 01 deck during UNREPs; manning the whale boat for man overboard drills; checking and chlorinating the potable water supply; and inspecting the galley and captain's pantry. The galley crew kept in my good graces and always notified me if late-night steaks or other culinary specials were going to be available. During one man overboard drill, the ship could not be maneuvered to rescue "Oscar" so the captain ordered the whaleboat to be lowered. I got drenched on the way down when an auxiliary pump overboard started up. We finally got Oscar! There's a longer story there, but…

Shipmates and Amusements: For some reason, I had several BT friends, including Tom Routzahn and Jim Dunno. We spent a lot of time hanging around the engine room. The admin crew were close, too. Today, I stay in touch with several, including Tom Ewing and George Shimer. I was lucky in that I interacted with almost everyone aboard ship at one time or another. During our time in the Caribbean and Med, we sometimes hauled my stereo speakers out to the Number 4 Hatch Aft of the Sick Bay laboratory/office and played good ole rock n' roll while sunbathing. While being shadowed by a Soviet ship, several of us dressed in white medical smocks. We took an unused bed spring, covered it with aluminum foil and hooked it to a fork lift to make it look like some sort of antenna. We walked around with clipboards, moved the "antenna" up and down and waved radiation counters around for 30 minutes. I wonder what the Soviets thought of that little stunt.

Since Then: After four years, I was happy to be out of the service and vowed to stay away from all things Navy. It didn't quite work out. After graduating college using the GI bill and bouncing around small-town journalism for a while, I spent 34 years developing proposals for a defense contractor whose main customer was the U.S. Navy. Among other work, our group designed, installed, and provided in-service support to the exterior communications system aboard every Aegis cruiser and destroyer ever built! My oldest son is a senior electronics engineer working for the Naval Air Systems Command at Naval Air Station Patuxent River. His wife is not only the mother of two wonderful grandchildren, but also an Annapolis graduate and naval flight officer who served aboard P-3 aircraft. She will be pinning on Captain's bars in August. My daughter produced a wonderful granddaughter with a small assist from her husband, a career Navy man and mustang. He, too is a naval flight officer and commander with a key job supporting unmanned aerial vehicles at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida. He will be retiring in August after 26 years of service.

Michael H. Kleinbeck, HM2 - Continued

Finally, my youngest son began working at "my" defense company while still in college. He spent more than 10 years first installing and then, as a mechanical engineer, helping design specialized communications systems for a variety of special operations forces, including the SEALs, and other federal clients. As you can see, I failed miserably at getting away from the Navy.

Today:

Since Cathy, my wife of 36 years, and I retired in April 2013, we have enjoyed traveling across much of the world. We even did a Med cruise. In 2015 we sailed from Florida to Tahiti through the Panama Canal, which included a stop at Easter Island. I finally became a Shellback! Last summer, we took an RV tour of National Parks and visited 22 parks over 14 weeks. What a beautiful country! I still do some proposal consulting, mostly from home, which has funded our travel.

I look back on my Navy years with mixed emotions. I matured as a person. I learned skills I never could have imagined. I remember with sadness my classmates from corpsman and Fleet Marine Force training whose names later appeared on the pages of the Navy Times as having made the ultimate sacrifice. I was lucky to avoid orders to Vietnam, and I was doubly lucky to serve aboard a ship with a crew like we had on the Sitkin.

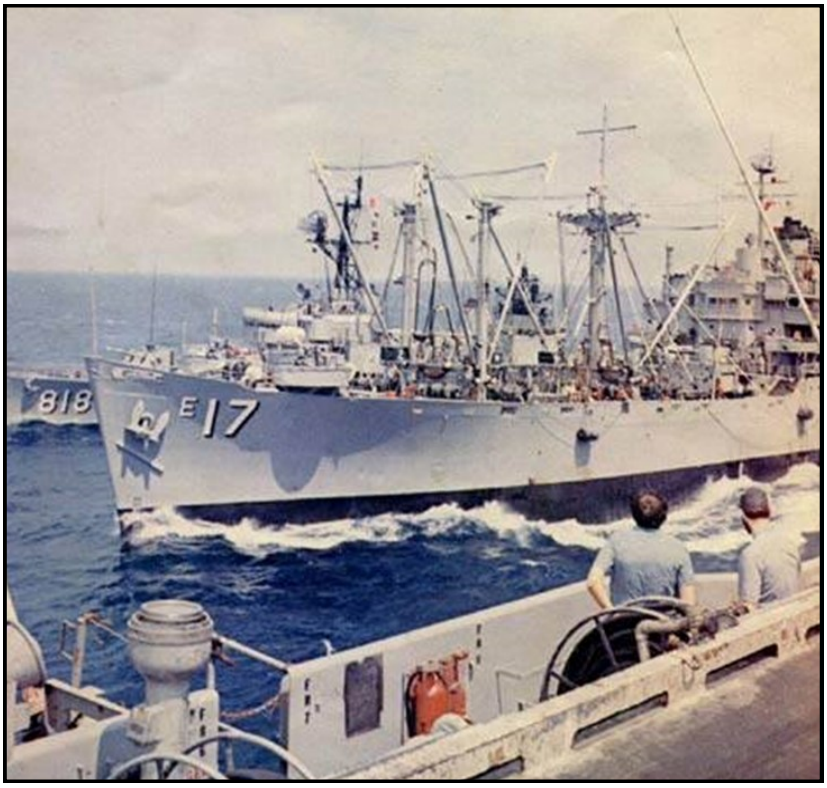
SH2 Tom Ewing, SH3 Denny Barolin, SH3 Jack Marryott

BT3 Jim Dunno, ?? BT3 Thomas Routzahn After boiler firesides - '71

U. S. Naval Hospital, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

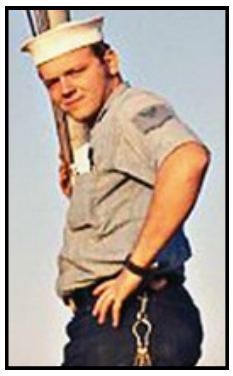
BT2 Fred Malone, BT3 Robert Clark, BT3 Thomas Routzahn '71

SH3 Jack Marryott & HM2 Mike Kleinbeck Getting their sea legs back



Underway replenishment - USS Franklin D. Roosevelt (CV-42) & USS New (DD-818) at sea in 1971. Photo taken from the FDR by a USS Great Sitkin (AE-17) crew member

SH3 Denny Barolin, BT3 Tom Routzhan, SH2 Tom Ewing, HM2 Mike Kleinbeck



SK2 John Whitford 1971

USS Great Sitkin (AE-17) Association - Ship's Store Order Form

Name: _____ **Phone:**_____

Address: _____**City, State, Zip:** _____

Ship's Ball Caps $15 each
Blue Solid Back: Blue

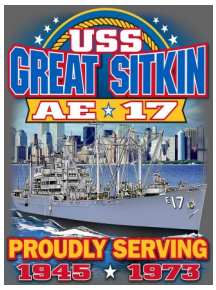
Ball Caps - $15 each **All Blue** Note: Where sizes are indicated, please circle the size/sizes you want.

USS Great Sitkin Ball Caps (solid back) Quantity: _____
USS Great Sitkin AE17 Ball Caps (solid back) Quantity: _____

Polo Shirts
Men's and Ladies
Navy blue, Grey, Pink **$25 each**
(Navy blue not shown)

Shirts: **Sizes**

USS Great Sitkin Polo Shirts - Blue - $25 M L XL XXL Quantity: _____
USS Great Sitkin Polo Shirts - Gray - $25 M L XL XXL Quantity: _____
USS Great Sitkin Polo Shirts - Pink - $25 S M L XL Quantity: _____
USS Great Sitkin Ship's Picture T-Shirt - $18 S M L XL XXL Quantity: _____
USS Great Sitkin Ship's Picture Sweatshirt $25 L XL XXL Quantity: _____



Ship's Picture Shirts
T-Shirts $18 each
Sweat Shirts $25 each
Back of shirt has picture,
Front has Ship's patch design

Aluminum water bottles: $10 Quantity: _____

Aluminum Water Bottle
$10 each

All prices include postage.
Please make check or money order out to **USS Great Sitkin (AE-17) Association**

All orders should be sent to: **USS Great Sitkin Association**
c/o George Kaiser
311 Oak Lane
Glenolden, PA 19036

Note: ***DO NOT*** include your "Dues" payment in with your Ship Store Order
They need to be separate checks or money orders.

Questions about Ship's Store items can be E-mailed to: ae17dc3@verizon.net

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USS Great Sitkin (AE-17) Association Active Membership: Active Member status in the USS Great Sitkin (AE-17) Association is open to all crew members. Dues are $20.00 per year and are used to cover the cost of the newsletters, website hosting, domain name, administrative and other expenses. The membership year is 1 January through 31 December. Membership cards will be issued to all crew members paying dues and will identify the individual by name, expiration date and number of years of Active Membership.

Payment of dues is not required to participate in any official function of the Association but is required for being an Active Member. Notices pertaining to dues will be posted on the website and in the newsletters. Active Members must have their dues paid prior to the annual meeting each year in order to retain their status and eligibility to vote.

To become an Active Member of the USS Great Sitkin (AE-17) Association, please complete the application form below and send it along with a check made payable to:

USS Great Sitkin (AE-17) Association, c/o George Kaiser, 311 W. Oak Lane, Glenolden, PA 19036

USS Great Sitkin (AE1-17) Association Active Member Application & Renewal Form

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Dates Served Aboard: _____ Application Date: _____ [ ] New [ ] Renewal

Amount Submitted: $_____ [ ] 2018 YR ($20.00) [ ] 2019 YR ($20.00) [ ] 2020 YR ($20.00)

[ ] Please send me a copy of the Constitution and Bylaws.

Comments:_____

_____

Signature: _____

September 19 - 23 Itinerary

Wednesday, September 19th

- Registration—Noon 'til ?? - Welcome Reception - 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 20th Andersonville & Port Columbus:

- Depart hotel at 8:00 a.m. for Andersonville
- Tour Andersonville National Historic Site & National POW/MIA Memorial, conduct Honor Ceremony at National Cemetery.
- Board buses at 11:30 a.m. - Lunch at Yoders (included w/tour)
- Board buses at 1:15 p.m. for trip to Port Columbus
- Tour Port Columbus National Civil War Naval Museum
- Return to Hotel at 5:00 p.m.
- BBQ on patio off the Hospitality Room 6:00 p.m. to ??? Typical backyard BBQ fare.

Friday, September 21st Fort Benning & National Infantry Museum:

- Depart hotel at 8:30 a.m. for Fort Benning. Tour includes lunch at the base mess hall (Enlisted Dining Facility) with the Soldiers. Tour of National Infantry Museum. Return to hotel (approximately) 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, September 22nd Annual Business Meeting - Annual Dinner Banquet

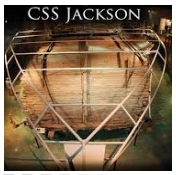
- Annual Business Meeting in Hospitality Room at 9:00 a.m. Election of Officers
- Free time from close of meeting to approximately 5:30 p.m.
- Annual Dinner Banquet: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Photos & Cocktails 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Banquet 7:30 - 11:00 p.m. Entertainment by Sonny D

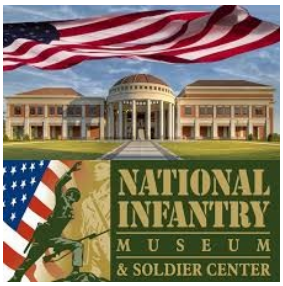
Sunday, September 23rd Farewell Breakfast:

- Farewell Breakfast 6:00 - 8:00 a.m. Time to say "so-long" 'til next year!

Andersonville Prison & National Prisoner of War Museum

NATIONAL CIVIL WAR NAVAL MUSEUM





Lunch w/Soldiers at base mess hall - Fort Benning

Purple Heart

Hall of Valor

Replica of Vietnam Memorial

Columbus, Georgia Reunion

September 19th thru the 23rd, 2018

Headquarters

Hilton Garden Inn
1500 Bradley Lake Blvd.
Columbus, Georgia 31904

Reservations: 1-706-660-1000
Event Code: USSSIT
Name: USS Great Sitkin

Hotel Amenities:

On-site restaurant for breakfast & dinner
Indoor Heated Pool & Jacuzzi
Fitness Center
Complimentary on-site parking
Complimentary wireless internet
Refrigerator, microwave & Keurg coffee maker in all guest rooms
Three outdoor patios - two overlooking their beautiful Lake
Walking trails

Hotel Accommodations:

$121.00 per night + taxes, double occupancy, includes buffet breakfast.

Rates good 3 days prior and 3 days after the reunion.

Check in: 3:00 p.m. Check out: Noon

Columbus Metropolitan Airport (Code: CSG)

Located close to Columbus, Georgia - Free Airport Shuttle. Airport is approximately six miles to Hilton Garden Inn. (15 minute ride)

RESERVATION CUTOFF DATE IS:

MONDAY, AUGUST 27th!

USS Great Sitkin (AE-17) Association
2018 Reunion Registration - Columbus, Georgia
September 19th thru 23rd, 2018

____ ______________________
Crew Member's Name and Age at Reunion Date Years Served Aboard the Sitkin

____
Home Address

_________________________________ ________________________________
Home Phone and Cell Number (for reunion) E-mail Address

____
Name(s) of Others Attending Reunion

____

- -

"Reunion Package"
Welcome Reception,
Tour Andersonville Civil War Prison Camp, National POW Museum
and Port Columbus National Civil War Naval Museum
Tour Fort Benning and National Infantry Museum
Barbeque and Pool Party
Annual Banquet (Sit-down dinner) Choice of (Please select number of meals):

_____ Chicken Marsala _____ Beef Tenderloin Medallions _____ Pork Calvados

w/Music by Sonny D

_____ 1 Person $125.00 _____ 2 People $250.00 _____ 3 People $375.00

Total Amount Enclosed:_______________ Signature:______________________________________

- -

Make checks payable to: USS Great Sitkin (AE-17) Association

Mail Registration form and payment to:

Ron Zimmerman Sr.
474 SW Prater Ave.
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34953 Questions: Please call Ron at: 772-342-3439

- -

Please do not include membership dues payment in with your reunion payment. Thank you!

Deadline for submission: Monday, August 27, 2018

Please note: The tours and events are booked and paid a month in advance. Any cancellations before the deadline will be refunded.