


The Compton at war



Commissioned November 4 1944
Decommissioned—September 27 1972

USS Compton Organization

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“Compton Newsletter”

COMPTON CORNER

WOW, the Saratoga reunion was one of the best reunions that we ever had. The Hotel, staff, and service, left nothing to ask for. Our banquet and food were excellent, and the entertainment had everyone on their feet. Compton definitely has talent.

A huge thank you to Ed and Nancy Capozziello for hosting the hospitably room. They purchased all the drinks and snacks, set up, maintained, and then cleaned up and stored all the leftovers. It was a great place to hang out and socialize. Our long time secretary, Mike Taylor, called it quits, he did a wonderful job. Thanks Mike. Also a thank you and congratulations to Ed Brimo for being elected as our new Secretary. Phil Prekel, our WEB master has posted many great pictures of our Saratoga reunion. Take a look.

Looking forward to 2022, our next reunion will be in Williamsburg, Va. May 2-5, 2022. We will keep our same agenda, Monday, registration Tuesday, Tour, and Wednesday, Business meeting and Banquet. The Double Tree Hotel, a Hilton property, will be our host hotel. The room rate is \$125/night with breakfast. All the pricing, details and agenda will be in the next newsletter. For our history buffs, the battles of Saratoga and Yorktown were the two major battles in our fight for independence. This will bookend, our last reunion with the last and final battle at Yorktown, it should be interesting and exciting. We will tour the Colonial town of Williamsburg, have lunch in one of the Olde Pubs and tour the Yorktown Battlefield.

In closing, we pray for the families of all our shipmates that have passed. Our memorial service was very moving, we had forty three past Compton sailors on our list. Covid played a large part, and we hope and pray, we will not lose any one else. We ask that **God watch over and bless our Compton family** and protect those that still wear the uniform of the greatest military in the world.

Fraternally,
Bob DiMonte



The “Compton Newsletter” is available in color—on our below WEB site Webmaster, Phil Prekel has posted 50 past newsletters from February 2009 to the present on our below listed Internet Website...

USS COMPTON DD705

2021 Reunion General Meeting

May 5, 2021

Saratoga Springs, NY

OPENNING:

The meeting was opened at 1000 by President Bob DiMonte.

INVOCATION AND FLAGS:

An invocation was read by the Chaplain followed by the presentation of the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance.

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION:

The President listed the current slate of officers of the Association:

Vice President – Ed Capozziello
Treasurer – Joe Napoli
Secretary – Mike Taylor
Chaplain – William (Doc) Eames
Western Representative – Jerry Sample
Northern Representative - Phil Prekel
Southern Representative – President Bob DiMonte

MEMBERSHIP:

The President introduced Plank Owner Bill Rader and presented him with one of the original COMPTON plaques. Bill made a few comments regarding his war time experiences on the COMPTON. The president also thanked James Gay for making Bill attendance at our meeting possible.

MINUTES OF TAMPA REUNION:

The Acting Secretary read the minutes the 2018 Reunion in Tampa Florida. There were no corrections or additions.

TREASURER REPORT:

The Treasurer reported the Association's financial position was good with a balance of about \$5,000.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A letter to the Association from Birgit and Sigward Pohl expressing their regrets for not being able to attend the meeting was read. Joe Napoli explained that Sigward, as a German Midshipman, had sailed on the Compton, ultimately becoming a Commander in their Navy. They have been attending our reunions for many years.

The President reported that Jack Heidecker had been hospitalized and was being tested to determine the source of his problem. The word from Jack was that he was feeling better.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The President advised that Mike Taylor had submitted his resignation as Secretary.

The election of officers followed. There being no candidates interested in an officer position, the remaining current roster of officers were automatically reelected.

Nominations were opened for the office of Secretary.

Joe Nowakowski nominated Ed Brimo for this position. . Ed Brimo was elected Secretary.

2022 REUNION PLANS:

The selection of Williamsburg Virginia was proposed as the site for the 2022 Reunion. The President said that the response from Double Tree, a Hilton entity.

MEMORIAL:

An invocation was given by the Chaplain for the members of the Compton that were deceased since the last meeting. The 43 names were read and the ship's bell struck for each of them.

CLOSING:

Here being no further business, the meeting was closed at 10:37.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Brimo
Secretary



The hospitality room
 Sitting: L-R Mike, Linda Olson and Dal Trader
 Standing: L-R Dave Scott and Andy Kelly



L-r, Webmaster Phil Prekel, Eileen Prekel with Mary and John Edmunds first timers originally from upstate New York



Capozziello, MacDougall and Prekel hiding from the Karaoke King



Eileen Prekel was captured and her and Dimonte "Mr Karaoke" actually they made a pretty good duo



Bob's sisters Connie and Rosemary trying to hold him back from Karaoke now they want him to tryout for "The Voice".



Diane and Happy Nehring with Joan Hennigan and Tony Zagame in the background



L-r, Chaplin Bill "Doc" Eames, Carol Eames, Nan and VP Cappy Capozziello

Annual USS Compton Association dues are \$20.00 per year. If you received an envelope with this newsletter - the dues are due now or will be due within a short period of time...look for the hand written date on your address label. This is the date when your membership has expired or will soon expire...



Captain DiMonte



Bob's choice for our cruise



USS Slater DE766—the crews choice

Dutch Apple Cruise

Compton members cruise the mighty Hudson River and it's very scenic views



Fellow Compton sailors: please send me your pictures from your days on our ship. I promise to send them back the very next day, after I receive those special memories.

Jack Heidecker
54 Mt Top Ct
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Linda and Frank Milanese



Bill Rader and Fred Summerville



James Johnston



Judy and John MacDougall



Bill and Rose Judge



Just a Reminder—Take advantage of your age

- **McDonald's:** discounts on coffee and beverages (55+)
- **Whataburger:** free drink with purchase of a meal, depending on location (55+)
- **Wendy's:** give free coffee or other discounts depending on location
- **Piccadilly Cafeteria:** 10% discount with "Prime Time for Seniors" card
- **IHOP:** 10% discount (55+) and a menu for people aged 55 and over at participating locations
- **Golden Corral:** Senior discount varies by location
- **Krispy Kreme Senior Discount:** 10% off (50+) (age and discount varies depending on location)
- **Perkins Restaurants:** Fifty-Five Plus menu Offers special deals (55+)
- **Subway:** 10% off (60+) varies by location
- **The Old Spaghetti Factory:** Spaghetti Factory "Senior Menu" offers discounted list of menu items
- **Uno Pizzeria & Grill:** "Double Nickel Club" 25% off on Wednesday (55+)
- **Sizzler:** Offers "Honored Guest Menu" (60+) varies by location
- **Papa John's Senior Discount:** check with your local stores (no standard senior discount policy)
- **Old Country Buffet:** Daily discounts for seniors (55+)
- **Friendly's Restaurants:** 10% off meal w/ free coffee at breakfast or free small sunday during non-breakfast hours
- **Fazoli's:** Join "Club 62" for special senior menu items (62+)
- **KFC:** free small drink with any meal depending on location (55+)
- **Country Kitchen:** Great Senior Menu (55+)
- **Burger King:** 10% discount on purchase depending on location (60+)

Internet Goodies

**My high school
was so small....
we had sex
education and
drivers
education in the
same car.**

**To get rid of
unwanted junk
during the
holidays ...**

**Put it in an
Amazon box and
leave it on the
porch.**

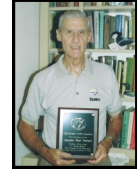


**I think the real
reason this
generation is
so angry is
because their
music sucks.**



Goodbye Ron and Rick.

By Joe Napoli



Recently we lost shipmate Ronnie Moody, SFP3, 1961-63. You will notice that this issue contains the obituary of shipmate Maurice “Rick” Rickard, ET2, 1952-54.

Both men were more than just members. They dedicated a large part of their lives to making the USS Compton Association a great organization.

Ron was our official recruiter and is responsible for the growth of our Association over the years. He spent much of his free time locating shipmates. He would call me often to provide me the name and address of shipmates he found so that I could send them a membership application. Years ago we purchased a computer for Ron to make his task easier. A large majority of our members were found by Ron.

Rick was an early member of our Association and has always been an asset to our group. For years he was the publisher of our newsletter. Rick would put the newsletter together and used his son, Maurice jr., to help him with the computer. He would then bring the finished product to “Mr. Speedy” to print up the copies.

Anyone who ever asked Rick a question knows that he was a stickler for facts. We called him our Association historian. He knew everything about our membership and I would often call him when I needed to confirm information about a shipmate. He would also point out my errors in record keeping.

I became treasurer at the Portland reunion in 2001 and have had the pleasure of knowing and working with both Ron and Rick for twenty years. I will miss them both.

Goodbye Ron and Rick.

Plank Owner William “Bill” Rader attended the Compton reunion in Saratoga Springs. Bill, who resides in Falmouth, MA., has made several of the reunions that were held in the New England area. His daughter, Amy, who usually accompanies Bill could not make the reunion.

James Gay, a friend of Bill’s, who know each other because of volunteering at Battleship Cove was nice enough to bring Bill to the reunion. They both enjoyed the event.

At the General Meeting Bill was presented with a World War II era ships plaque by President Bob DiMonte.

“Plank Owner” is Navy speak for a person who is the original crew of a ship. Bill was aboard when the Compton was commissioned and served during World War II. Those of you who have met Bill have been amazed by the stories he relates about serving on the Compton.

An interview with Bill about the Compton in Japan appeared in a past newsletter.

James Gay is the author of the Arcadia publication “Images of America, Battleship Cove”. WWW.Arcadiapublishing.com. James put a picture of the Compton in the book, on page 67, in honor of Bill.

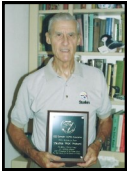


Jim and Bill

Joe Napoli



Obituaries: USS Compton DD705



Maurice “Rick” Rickard ET2 passed March 25, 2021 at the age of 91 years. Rick was our Compton Historian and a major part of the original founders of our association. Along with his son, Maurice Jr, he was the original publisher of the Compton Newsletter. On the previous page of this newsletter, there is a nice tribute by Joe Napoli on “ Rick and Ron” about Rick, on his many contributions to our Compton’s growth. A donation, in Rick’s honor will be made to Tin Can Sailors.



Eugene McCarthy SCCS passed April 12, 2021 in Jonesboro, Georgia at 77 years of age. Eugene was a Senior Chief who retired with 28 years of naval service. After retirement, Chief McCarthy spent nearly 50 years with Delta Airlines starting in the Boston area and then moving to Atlanta, Georgia. His service to the USS Compton was in 1964 to 1966 and he was an active member of the Compton Association. A donation in his honor was made to the “Tin Can Sailors”.



David Getsinger PN3 passed 5/28/2020 in Anderson, South Carolina at 82 years of age. David served on the USS Compton as a PN3 in 1958—1959 (Personnelman Third Class). He was an active member of our association and a donation in his honor will be made to Tin Can Sailors.



Michael Flynn FTSN (1953-54) passed January 14, 2021. Dedham MA. At the age of 88 years. He was an active Compton Association member and attended eight reunions. Michael was employed by the United States Postal Service and retired, as a supervisor, after 23 years. A donation, in his name, will be made to TCS as Michael was an active member of the USS Compton Association.



Robert Johnson MM2 (1963-1967) passed April 20, 2021 in Huntington Beach, California at the age of 77 years. Bob was an active member of the Compton Association and had last attended the Warwick Reunion. Our memorial donation, in his honor, will be made to the “ Tin Can Sailors “ in support of existing memorial ships and all those who served on destroyers or escorts during their naval service.



Charlie Gray MM3 (4/1969—10/1962), passed November 11, 2020 in Gainesville, Florida, at 76 years of age. Two things the Compton will remember about Charlie. After his Compton service and release from active duty, he was drafted into the US military and it took some time before he could prove his naval service and be released. Secondly, he should be considered the “ Compton’s Poet Laureate “ from his poetic contribution to our newsletter, of which there will be future contributions.



Earl Escue, RD3 (1943), passed in Grand Blanc, Michigan on December 28, 2020 at the age of 93 years. He is listed as serving on the Compton during WW2, Earl was a 40 year employee of AC Spark Plug, a division of the General Motors Corporation. Also, very active in veteran’s organizations and was Past Commander of American Legion Post 456. A donation in his honor will be made to Tin Can Sailors.