
USS Compton Organization

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All Newsletter, pictures and
articles should be sent to:

Jack Heidecker
“Compton Newsletter”



Commissioned November 4 1944
Decommissioned—September 27 1972

Compton returns home to Newport



Fellow Compton Shipmates

It’s a new year and April will be here before you know it. It’s time to send in your reservation form if you plan on attending the New London area reunion. Make your hotel reservation by calling the phone number listed on the reservation form in the newsletter.

I urge shipmates to participate in this reunion. We are all getting older, most above the age of 80, and travel may become difficult in the future. Attendance is declining and it’s hard to predict how many more reunions we will be able to have. The New London area reunion will be our 38th annual event, quite a record thanks to our Association officers and shipmates.

If you live in the area, it is not necessary to rent a room. Day trips will be fine. Just make sure to send in your registration form so we will know if you will attend the group lunch or the banquet. This event will also be economical. The room rate, including breakfast, is reasonable and you will save by not paying for a tour. The reunion will run from Sunday April 27, 2025 until Tuesday April 29, 2025.

Our Association had a very good 2024. We had a very nice reunion and our financial status is good. Our governing body participated in every operational decision that was made and was advised of reunion negotiations.

I must compliment our officers and board members for their dedication and contributions to our Association.

Joe Napoli



The “Compton Newsletter” is available in color—on our below WEB site
Webmaster, Phil Prekel has posted over 60 past newsletters from February 2009
to the present on our below listed Internet Website...

U.S.S. Compton 2025 Reunion

Holiday Inn Norwich, CT
10 Laura Blvd., Norwich, CT

Reservations: 860-889-5201 or 888-211-9874
Room rate \$109 per night with breakfast included. Rate available 3 days after event.

Members name rate/rank _____

Spouse/Guest name _____

Attach list of additional guests.

Meal selection: Chicken _____ Fish _____ Beef _____ \$65 per person

Total \$ of check included _____

Number attending complementary group lunch on Monday 4/28 _____

Cut off date: **March 28, 2025.** Mail checks to:

USS Compton Association
129 Mallard Drive,
Monroe Twp. NJ 08831

Banquet Menu

Garden salad with assorted dressings

Italian Wedding Soup

***Chicken Marsala** with Portabella mushroom in Italian wine sauce

***Stuffed filet of Sole** with seafood stuffing

***Grilled Sirloin** with Peppercorn Cognac sauce

All with mashed potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Coffee and selection of tea

Dessert; New York style cheesecake

Open Bar

2025 Reunion Agenda

Sunday April 27 to Tuesday April 29

- Sunday: 3:00pm Hospitality room open. 4:00pm Hotel check in.
- Monday: Hospitality room open all day.
8:00am-10:00am Compton group breakfast in the Laural/Rose room
1:00pm Compton group lunch at the Hotel.
***No tour.** A list of attractions will be provided to attendees so they can visit sites on their own.
- Tuesday: 8:00am-10:00am Compton group breakfast in the Laural/Rose room.
Hospitality room open all day.
10:00am General meeting and memorial service in the Chelsea/Rose 1 room.
6:00pm-9:00pm Compton banquet in the Chelsea/Rose 1 room.
- Wednesday: 8:00am-10:00am Compton group breakfast in the Laural/Rose room.

Have a safe trip home.

Who is the Compton named for ???



Lewis Compton born 7 November 1892 in Perth Amboy from the state of New Jersey.

He was the Assistant Secretary of the Navy under President Franklin D Roosevelt from February 9, 1940 until January 10, 1941 .

He then resigned due to health reasons and then passed away after abdominal surgery in New York City.

Compton Donations—Oct 15, 2024 to Jan 1, 2025

Howard Bouffard, Paul Meyers, Michael Olson, Joe Cataudella, Michael Heider

Internet Goodies

**WHEN IS "OLD
ENOUGH TO KNOW
BETTER" SUPPOSED
TO KICK IN**

**I really think it's
time to take the
warning labels
off of everything
and let stupidity
work itself out of
the gene pool.**

**JOKE OF THE
DAY-BUMPER
STICKER ON A
SENIOR'S CAR "I AM
SPEEDING BECAUSE
I HAVE TO GET
THERE BEFORE I
FORGET WHERE I AM
GOING"**

**IDOLIZING
A POLITICIAN
IS LIKE BELIEVING THE
STRIPPER REALLY
LIKES YOU**

**WEIGHT LOSS GOAL:
TO BE ABLE TO CLIP
MY TOENAILS AND
BREATHE AT THE
SAME TIME.**

**YOU KNOW YOU'RE
GETTING OLD
WHEN A RECLINER
AND A HEATING
PAD IS YOUR IDEA
OF A HOT DATE**

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...

USS Compton (DD 705) and a 1962 Hurricane

Our ship, the USS Compton (DD 705), was returning from the Naval Blockade involved during the Cuban Missile Crisis. We were steaming up the Atlantic Coast toward Cape Hatteras. The seas became rough as hurricane conditions forced speed reduction to 6 knots (bare steerage way). Swells were 65 foot in height putting solid water over the bridge on most impacts. Winds howled at 120 mph.

Around 0200 Hours during the night, it became necessary to reverse course 180 degrees to avoid a Cape Hatteras rendezvous with this hurricane. I, as Conning Officer on the bridge, chose to make a 180 degree turn as quick as possible using right full rudder. At 30 degrees into the turn, we got hit with the first broadside wave tilting our ship 65 degrees from vertical. Subsequent broadsides from wave action with continual steady winds at 120 mph held our ship tilted at 65 degrees until 150 degrees into the turn was reached. Only then our ship righted instantly for the rest of the turn. The righting action was so quick that the only shipmate not strapped down in his rack was injured being thrown out of his bunk against a metal bulkhead.

Arriving in Charleston Harbor, the fog was so thick that the lookout on our bow commuting by headphones was not visible to the bridge. Fog horns were sounding all around us. We dropped anchor by radar positioning without incident resuming our travel next morning toward home base Newport, Rhode Island.

In 1962, satellite positioning did not exist. Today, the awareness of hurricane locations, course and speed makes it possible to bypass the worst of hurricane weather. In the 1960's, navigation was still using dead reckoning from star and sun positioning on ocean crossings.

I write this in memory of shipmates now deceased and to honor those that still gather yearly for a ships reunion. Lt(jg) Karl Dietsch, US Navy, 1960/1963 active duty aboard USS Compton (DD 705).

Side-note from Jack Heidecker. I was assigned the watch, on the Compton's gyro-compass, during the above incident. This watch was an authorized "sleeping" watch to insure that any power issues with the gyro compass was immediately addressed. As the degree of tilt reached 65 degrees the cot I was using started aggressively sliding toward the open bulkhead door and the open Galley with other sailors scrambling for safety carrying life vests.

The scariest moment was when the ship hung at that precarious position for a few extra seconds until it righted itself. It would have been goodbye Compton—if an aggressive wave struck us at that very moment.



Obituaries: USS Compton DD705



Elmer Kelley FN (1945—1946) was born on January 16, 1928 and passed in Palm Harbor, Florida on November 16, 2024 at 96 years of age. Mr. Kelley started his military service on the USS Compton in 1945 and then joined the US Air Force. After his military service he was employed by General Motors for 25 years. Elmer was an active Compton Association member and a donation in his honor was made to Tin Can Sailors.



Martin J Kellner MM3 (1945—1946) from Roaring River, NC. He was born on March 7, 1925 in Orange County New York and passed March 25, 2024. He was a history teacher for 20 years, a founding member of Habitat for Humanity. A interesting note from Elmer Kelley obit above. They both were on the Compton, at about the same time, then served with the US Air Force. Also a member of our association and our memorial donation was made to TCS



William E Sneed BT1 (1/63—1/66) passed on October 9, 2024 at 82 years of age. Ed was born in League City, Texas on December 4, 1941. There was a Celebration of Life at the Cypress Valley Bible Church in Marshall, Texas. His body was donated to Texas A & M for medical science purposes. Ed was a past member of the Compton Association. Rest in peace fellow sailor.



Donald W Campbell (US Navy (1955—1959) listed as being assigned to the Compton during his time in the navy. Donald was born on February 15, 1937 in Detroit, Michigan and passed at his home in Montgomery Illinois on February 19, 2024. A very gifted Athletic was inducted into his high school's athletic (East Aurora) hall of fame with outstanding records in basketball, track and football. RIP Donald.



Michael A Flynn FTFN (Korean War Veteran) passed on January 14, 2021 in Dedham, MA at 88 years of age from complications of Covid 19. He was a past active member of the Compton Association and had attended 8 reunions. Michael continued his service to the United States through the Postal Service for 25 years retiring as a supervisor. A Celebration of Life ceremony will be held at a later date.



Robert Lampen RD2 (1956—1960) was born May 16, 1937 in Overisel Michigan and passed on October 8, 2024 in Fennville, Michigan after his service to the navy and the Compton Bob began building homes as a master craftsman. He was very passionate about woodworking ans restoring old homes to their original condition. He was an active Compton Association member and a donation in his name was made to “Tin Can Sailors”.