


The Compton at war

USS Compton Organization

Jack Heidecker – President
54 Mt Top Court,
Hazle Township PA 18202
570 450-5545
Jack555@ptd.net

Ed Capozziello—Vice President
1161 Laidlaw Ave,
Franklin Square NY 11010
516 458-0497
ecap6407@optonline.net

Joe Napoli – GM/Treasurer
129 Mallard Dr.
Monroe Twp, NJ 08831
609 409-7678
jsnap29@verizon.net

Mike Taylor – Secretary
PO Box 148, Elizabeth WVA 26143
304 275-8995
tudorboats19@yahoo.com

Charlie Jakob - Chaplain
6368 Gillespie Street
Philadelphia PA 19135-3223
215 624-8084

Compton Board of Directors:

Joe Bonaventura - East Region
760 Linden Ave.,
Pennel PA 19047
215 757-6220
joepa29@comcast.net

Bob Ott - North Region
3404 Dickens Rd
Blasdell NY 14219
716 826-2535
reott_1999@yahoo.com

Paul Woodbury – South Region
3603 Pin Oak Court
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410
561 626-1093
pjwoodbury@bellsouth.net

Jim McKelva – West Region
412 S Fielder Road
Arlington TX 76013-1751
817 792-3273
jasmck@sbcglobal.net

Editor/Publisher—Jack Heidecker

All correspondence,
pictures and articles should
be sent to:

Jack Heidecker
54 Mt Top Court
Hazle Township PA 18202

jack555@ptd.net
570 450-5545

Virginia Beach Reunion agenda

Friday April 27

12:00 noon: Hospitality room (Pembroke) open, reunion registration.

Saturday April 28

Hospitality room (Pembroke) open all day.

3:00pm: Busses leave the hotel for the tour of Norfolk and the Virginia International Tattoo

10:30pm: Tour busses return to the hotel

Sunday April 29

Hospitality room (Pembroke) open all day.

10:00am to 12:00am General Meeting and Memorial Service in the Gallery.

12:00pm to 6:00pm Free time

6:00pm to 11:00pm Banquet plated dinner in the Gallery. Group pictures will be taken prior to the meal being served by a professional photographer. Prints can be purchased later in the evening.

Monday April 30

Have a safe trip home or stay a few days and see the sights.

Crown Plaza: Virginia Beach—757-473-1700—4453 Bonney Rd, Virginia Beach. VA 23462

Compton rate \$99.00 per night for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Before and after those days rate is \$89.00 per night. Cut off date is March 26, 2012. This is a sold out weekend in this area due to the International Tattoo—please make your reservations ASAP.

Airport Shuttle service for the Virginia Beach Reunion
Cary Transportation provides a 24 hour shuttle from the Norfolk Airport to the Crown Plaza @ Virginia Beach—the shuttle is located in the baggage area of the airport.
2011 pricing is \$27.00 for the first person and \$5.00 for each additional passenger.
Their phone number is 866-823-4626.
Return trip to airport—hotel reservation desk—main lobby

**"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast for I intend to go into harm's way"
John Paul Jones—Nov 1778**



Anybody recognize the Compton with her new hull number as part of the Brazilian Navy fleet...

Darl Servey, Johnny Cupp and John MacDougall Assistant Chaplain Cupp—I am sure he is giving them good advice!!!



**Honorary Compton sailors:
Jeanine and Carl Jeziorski
Friends of the Otts and attendees at our reunions.**

Speaking of the Otts—Bob Ott, Compton's North East Regional Director and Chris Ott who is always lending a helpful hand for our reunions...

Banquet Meal—plate dinner on Sunday—April 29th

Italian Wedding Soup

Mixed Seasonal Salad greens with choice of two dressings

Grilled Chicken Breast with a mushroom cream sauce
or
New York Strip with green peppercorn Sauce

Dessert: Mist Lemon Cake

(Special diet needs will be met with advance notice.)

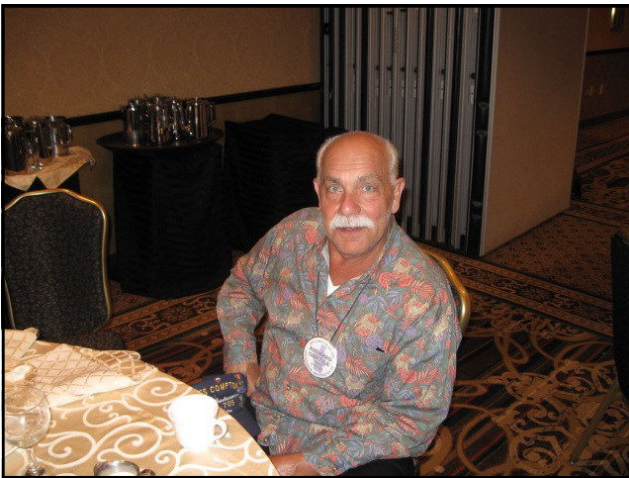
Women and cats will do as they please and men and dogs should get use to the idea and relax!!



Powder Monkey on a sailing warship—during the civil war.



‘Rumor has it that this may have been Joe Bonaventura in that famous end of WW2 kiss!!!!



After Rich Gentile moved to Florida he bought all those wild shirts...



Rose and Joe Napoli taking a break. Back to work Joe or Captain’s Mast!!!

Virginia Beach Tour/Show

Our tour this year will be a little different. We will leave the hotel, by motor coach busses, at 3:00 in the afternoon on Saturday.

We will have a riding tour of Norfolk which will include a stop at a famous 50’s era drive, Doumar’s, where we will get an ice cream treat. Than it’s off to the MacArthur Memorial after which we will go to MacArthur Center for Dinner. The meal is not included in the tour so that we would be able to keep the total cost down. Several restaurants are in the area and I am sure you will find one to meet your taste.

After dinner we will go to the Norfolk Scope Arena to see the 7:30 PM performance of the Virginia International Tattoo show. We will sit in premium \$50 seats so we will have a good view of the show. After the show we will return to the hotel, by motor coach bus, we should arrive about 10:30 PM. The cost of the tour/show is \$90 per person.

2012 Annual Reunion Form; Virginia Beach

Member's Name _____

Spouse/guest _____

Rank/Rate _____ Years aboard _____ to _____

Please enter above info as you would want it on your name tag.

Number in Party _____ (Print additional names on rear of form if necessary.)

Meal Selection: Beef _____ Chicken _____ (@ \$50 per person)

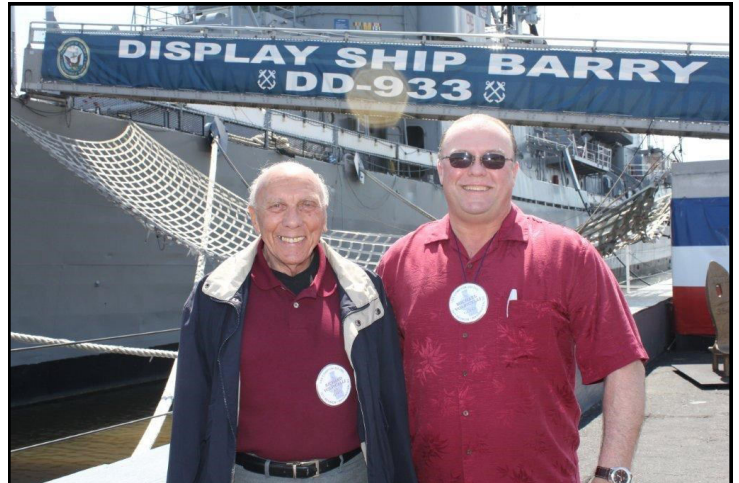
Number taking tour _____ (@\$90 per person) Total Amount enclosed _____

Mail form and check to: USS Compton Assn., PO Box 6621, Monroe Twp., NJ, 08831-6621.

Make check out to USS Compton Assn. Please respond by March 31.



**Mike Olson, Bob DiMonte and Phil Prekel
at the Compton Memorial service....**



**Richard and his son Michael Volpicelli
Richard at his first reunion...**

Evening news is where they begin with 'Good Evening,' and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

Admiral Chester Nimitz

Really interesting, and I never knew this little bit of history:

Tour boats ferry people out to the USS Arizona Memorial in Hawaii every thirty minutes. We just missed a ferry and had to wait thirty minutes. I went into a small gift shop to kill time. In the gift shop, I purchased a small book entitled, "Reflections on Pearl Harbor" by Admiral Chester Nimitz.

Sunday, December 7th, 1941--Admiral Chester Nimitz was attending a concert in Washington D.C. He was paged and told there was a phone call for him. When he answered the phone, it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the phone. He told Admiral Nimitz that he (Nimitz) would now be the Commander of the Pacific Fleet.

Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet. He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941. There was such a spirit of despair, dejection and defeat--you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war. On Christmas Day, 1941, Adm. Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. Big sunken battleships and navy vessels cluttered the waters every where you looked.

As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked, "Well Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?" Admiral Nimitz's reply shocked everyone within the sound of his voice. Admiral Nimitz said, "The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or God was taking care of America. Which do you think it was?"

Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, "What do mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?" Nimitz explained:

Mistake number one: the Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk--we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.

Mistake number two: when the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships, they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow every one of those ships to America to be repaired. As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised.. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America. And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships.

Mistake number three: every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is in top of the ground storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply. That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make or God was taking care of America.

I've never forgotten what I read in that little book. It is still an inspiration as I reflect upon it. In jest, I might suggest that because Admiral Nimitz was a Texan, born and raised in **Fredricksburg**, Texas --he was a born optimist. But anyway you look at it--Admiral Nimitz was able to see a silver lining in a situation and circumstance where everyone else saw only despair and defeatism.

President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job. We desperately needed a leader that could see silver linings in the midst of the clouds of dejection, despair and defeat.

There is a reason that our national motto is, IN GOD WE TRUST

Article from Internet--no author listed

Joe Farry letter to his parents continued from our last Newsletter...
Sent from Tokyo Bay—August 1945

Two Jap submarines which had surrendered went passed us one morning, with the Japs lined up on deck with American guards. And it was quite a thrill to see the red, white and blue flying in the breeze right over the Nip flag with the setting sun. Above us we could see the big transport planes flying in from Okinawa to land troops at the Tokyo airdrome, and all day long we could see the navy fighter planes wheeling overhead, just waiting for a Jap to try something funny. But, I guess that the Japs couldn't find anything humorous, because they behaved properly for a change. And all around us were the American and British fleets, with all guns manned.

By the second night in Sagami Wan, the fleet and the marines had the situation well in hand, because all the ships showed movies on the main deck and there were lights all over the harbor. But it was a strange feeling to sit at a movie topside because we remembered all the weeks and months at Okinawa and other ports where not a single light showed all night. And only a week or two ago we were sitting in Okinawa's Buckner Bay when the Pennsylvania was hit by a Jap torpedo close enough for us to hear the thud and see the explosion. But times have changed and here we were shaking our fist right in the Japanese face, close range, and showing movies at the same time.

But finally, on the 30th of August, the mine sweeps had made sure the inner harbor, Tokyo Bay itself, was safe for important characters like the "Compton", and so in we came and anchored near the city of Yokohama and the naval base at Yokosuka.

And that's where we are right now. On the shore we can see the fire gutted factories and plants of Yokohama. Along the beach and concrete sea wall, we can see the remains of a Jap battlewagon and half sunk Nip destroyer and what the Japs probably used to call a fort protecting the bay, which is now lumps of concrete. And around us the transports and cargo ships are pouring men and supplies ashore while the fighting fleet keeps an eagle eye on the proceedings. In a day or two the Japs will sign the surrender on the nearby "Missouri". It is too bad that the Jap admiral who was going to sign the peace in the White House can't be here to witness the ceremony.

Your Son,
Joe

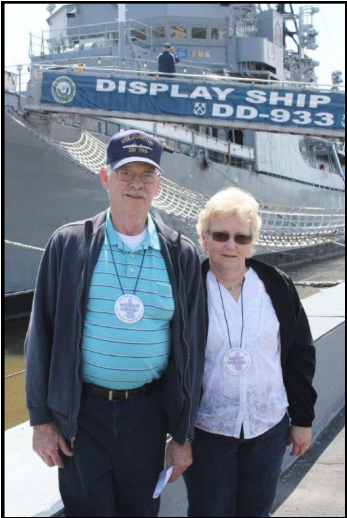
P.S. One of the mess cooks was singing at his work this morning and composed the following ditty, which we pass along:

"We used to hear from the bos'n's mate
This discouraging cry in song:
'See the Golden Gate in '48
And be back where you belong'
But here today in Tokyo Bay
Is the newest tune we hum?
And mark the way we wait to say
'California, here we come!'"

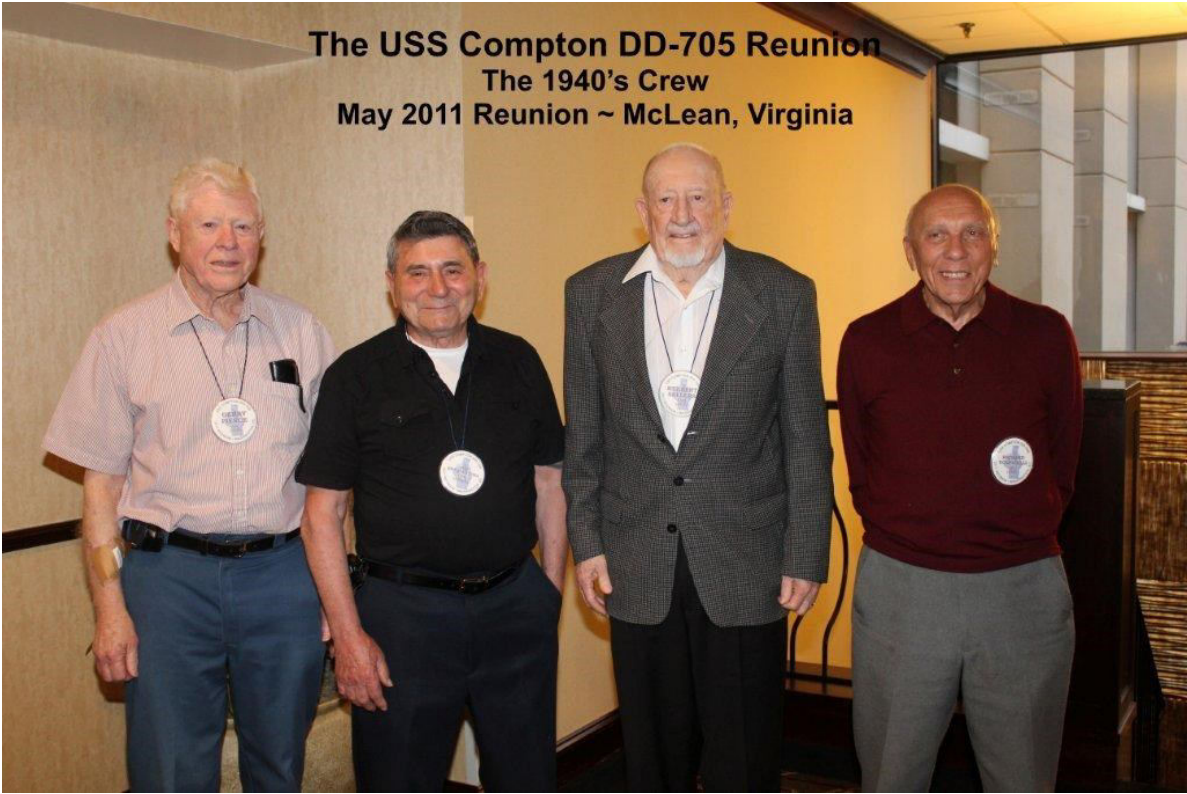
Reverend Joe Farry, Thank you, for your service to our country – Your Compton shipmates!



**Left side
Doral and Fredrick Link
At the WW2 Memorial**



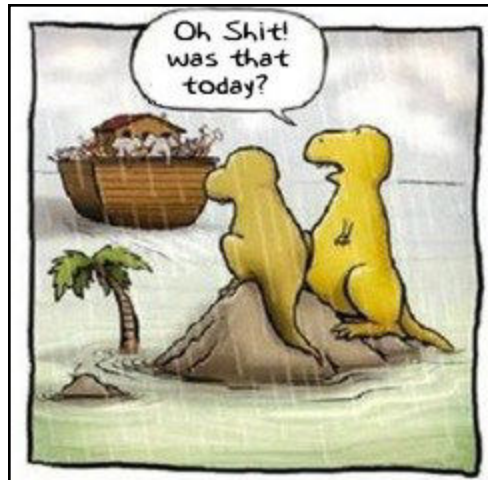
**Bill and Sandy Strahl
In front of the Barry**



**The USS Compton DD-705 Reunion
The 1940's Crew
May 2011 Reunion ~ McLean, Virginia**

**Gerry Pierce, Joe Bonaventura, Herb Sellers and Michael Volpicelli
The caption tells it all...**

Compton Association dues are \$20.00 per year—if you received an envelope with this Newsletter—they are now due or due within a short period... Look for the hand written date, on your address label... That date is when it expired or currently will expire...



What really happened to the Dinosaurs!!

Compton Obituaries

John P. Sullivan, 86, passed on September 26, 2011. John was commissioned as an Ensign and served on the USS Compton as the acting Gunnery Officer in 1945.

Richard “Dick” Lau, 81, passed peacefully on July 20, 2011 in Dallas TX. Dick served on the USS Compton during the Korean Conflict. Richard served as a Yeoman during his time on the Compton.

Michael Kelly Lt Jg, served on the Compton, 1963-64 (proximate time) died, July 2011 in McLean, Virginia. Information was supplied by association member, Bob Fay.

Calvin C Marshall, Holbrook, MA passed on May 31, 2011. Born July 4, 1928. He joined the Navy—when he was 18 years old. Calvin served on different ships during the war years including the USS Compton.

Richard Gerald “Jerry” Smock, passed away November 18, 2003. He was born June 17, 1928 in Colesburg, Iowa. Jerry entered the navy on January 17, 1946 and served on the USS Compton as a Yeoman during post war patrols.