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The Compton at war



United States Navy Band performs at the Virginia International Tattoo...

Fellow Shipmates:

The Virginia International Tattoo is an annual event that all military families should attend on their bucket list. It was an awesome site to watch each of our military branches with their own marching band.

North Region officer and 2013 reunion host— Bob Ott promises a exciting and informative time at Buffalo NY.

All the information, schedule, meals will be in the November Newsletter.

God Bless our country!

Jack Heidecker

"Well," snarled the tough old Navy Chief to the bewildered Seaman, "I suppose after you get discharged from the Navy, you'll just be waiting for me to die so you can come and pee on my grave."

"Not me, Chief!" the Seaman replied. "Once I get out of the Navy, I'm never going to stand in line again!"



L-R, Chief Banasiak, Maurice (???) and Doc Eames. (circa 1962)



L-R, Jack Heidecker and LeBurne Busee San Juan, Porto Rico (circa 1961)



Emile and Marylyn Duchemin—early birds at the reunion greeting members as they arrived...



James and Carol Warren—First timers But, had to leave early!!!

***Why are Americans so united? They would not resemble one another even if you painted them all one color! They speak all the languages of the world and form an astonishing mixture of civilizations and religious beliefs.***

*Re-printed from The Internet:*

## **Interesting Veterans Statistics off the Vietnam Memorial Wall**

**There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010.**

**The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 36 years since the last casualties.**

**The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth , Mass. Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.**

**There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.**

**39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.**

**8,283 were just 19 years old.**

**The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old.**

**12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.**

**5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.**

**One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.**

**997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam .**

**1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam .**

**31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.**

**Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.**

**4 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia . I wonder why so many from one school.**

**8 Women are on the Wall. Nursing the wounded.**

**244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall.**

**Beallsville , Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.**

**West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.**

**The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered.**

**They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest . And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.**

**The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues.**

**They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam . In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead while assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.**

**The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.**

**The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.**

**For most Americans who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters.**

**There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.**

**Info sent to us by Bob DiMonte, Southern Region Officer, USS Compton DD705**





**Rest now Bob Ott—you have a lot of work getting set up for the 2013 Buffalo Reunion...**



**Charlie Jakob is not only our Compton Chaplin, I believe he also represents some Indian tribe as he performs his annual Compton dance...**



**Lou Rainone and his wife, Romana  
Lou is back—thanks to his wife's special care!!!**



**L-R, Rose Napoli, Bud and Ann Foley, Joe Napoli  
Joe is pumping Bud for information and telling Bud he was buying the "FREE" breakfast!!!**

**Osama Bin Laden was living with 3 wives in one compound and didn't leave the house for 5 years, it is now believed that he called the Navy Seals himself!!!!**



**"If you put the federal government in charge of the Sahara Desert, in 5 years there'd be a shortage of sand"**

*Milton Friedman*  
Milton Friedman



**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**2011**

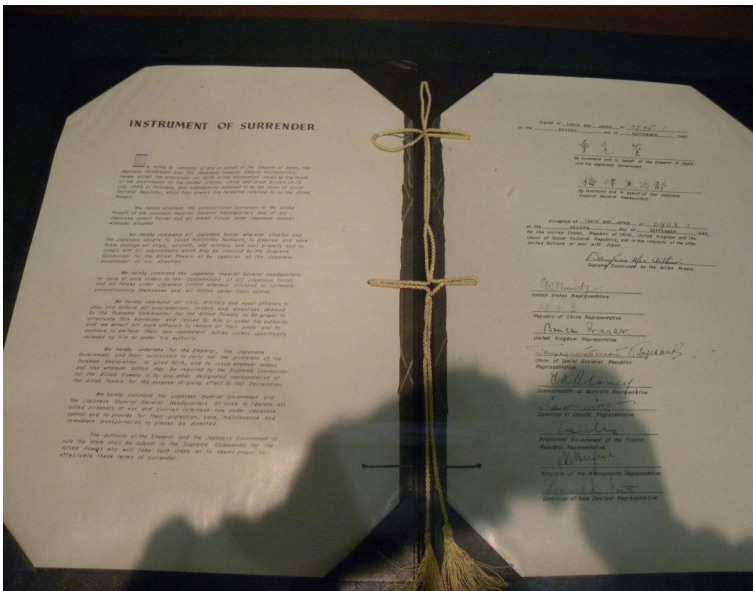
- Richard Berthiaume, Port Washington, WI SO2, 52-55**
- Eugene Wurzler, Smyrna TN FT2, 57-59**
- Joseph Brielmann, Sarasota FL, BT3, 63-65**
- John Myers, Viola IL., GM3, 58-60**

**2012**

- Ron Hodges, Olive Branch, MS LTJG, 61-64**
- Jim Evans, Macungie, PA LTJG, 61-63**
- Mark Dickie, Billerica MA BM3, 66-70**
- John Soderlund, Norwood MA RM2, 55-58**
- Gary Radwick, Waterbury CT SN 62-66**
- John Waltz, Avondale, AZ FTSN, 61**
- Fred Gilbertson, Williamsburg VA LTJG, 69-70**
- Hap Nehring, Painted Post, NY SN, 59-60**
- Carter Cincotta, Ossipee NH SMSN, 60-61**
- Arthur Frankewich, Milford DE, GMSN, 61-63**
- Marion Hough, Butte MT, RDSN, 63-64**



**Entrance to "The MacArthur Memorial".. Herb Sellers and Bertha check out the entrance statue of General Douglas MacArthur**



**The "Instrument of Surrender" ending WWII**



**Rest in Peace and thank you!!!**

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem....how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a 'Monkey' with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make 'Brass Monkeys.' Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled.. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey; Thus, it was quite literally, 'Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.' (All this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn't you.)



Shipmates and spouse's stop for a sample ice cream cone from Doumar's inventor of the ice cream cone...

Fred Summerville telling Kathy about that big Pennsylvania buck he almost bagged. All Kathy wants to know why they take so many pictures!!!

### Letter from a Compton member

Dear Jack,

First, I would like to say I enjoy reading the Compton Newsletter.

I am not a book critic, but I do read quite a few books on the 2nd World War, especially the Pacific Theater. I just finished a book about Tin Cans on picket duty off Okinawa in 1945. Of interest to all who served on the Compton and especially to the men on board at that time, this book tells in great detail about all the Destroyers and other ships and planes that were involved in picket duty. The Compton was given credit on pages 323 and 356. The title of the book is "Kamikazes, Corsairs and Picket Sips, Okinawa 1945" BY Robin L Rielly. I think it would be an interesting read to any Can sailor who is interested in WWII and just how dangerous this area was for Tin Can Sailors.

Ship Mate from 1955 to 1958.

Leslie T Ellis, IC3



**The U.S.S. Constitution (Old Ironsides), as a combat vessel, carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for her crew of 475 officers and men. This was sufficient to last six months of sustained operations at sea. She carried no evaporators (i.e. fresh water distillers).**

**However, let it be noted that according to her ship's log, "On July 27, 1798, the U.S.S. Constitution sailed from Boston with a full complement of 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum."**

**Her mission: "To destroy and harass English shipping."**

**Making Jamaica on 6 October, she took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum.**

**Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there 12 November. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine.**

**On 18 November, she set sail for England. In the ensuing days she defeated five British men-of-war and captured and scuttled 12 English merchant ships, salvaging only the rum aboard each.**

**By 26 January, her powder and shot were exhausted. Nevertheless, although unarmed she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. Her landing party captured a whisky distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons of single malt Scotch aboard by dawn. Then she headed home.**

**The U. S. S. Constitution arrived in Boston on 20 February 1799, with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, no rum, no wine, no whisky, and 38,600 gallons of water.**

## **GO NAVY**



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

**2013 US Compton Reunion—Buffalo, New York**

**Dates: April 23 (Tuesday) to April 25 (Thursday) - room rate \$94.00 + tax**

**Millennium Hotel  
2040 Walden Avenue  
Buffalo, New York 14225  
Phone # 1 716 681-2400 or 1 716 681-8067**

**All American Tour—\$80.00 per person  
( full reunion information and forms will be in the November Newsletter)**

*Reunion sponsors: Bob and Chris Ott*

**Note: Tour is in USA—Canadian trips are personal and entry will require a passport or super ID state license...**

**Correction from last Compton Newsletter on the carrier picture from page # 4:**

I am pretty sure this the USS INDEPENDENCE. The USS ENTERPRISE had until it's midlife conversion in the beginning of 1970, the very typical square radar SPS 32/33 phased array radar and the cylinder dome above for ECM and ECCM. I will try to send a picture of the USS ENTERPRISE, as she looked, before 1970.

**Sigward Pohl**

**Another Correction: Picture on page #4, May issue is Richard "Dick" Volpicelli not Frank Caccioppoli —Editor mistake...**

**Obituaries: USS Compton**

**Thanks to Maurice Rickard for researching these Obituaries.**

**Kearns, William A. Jr., RADM US NAVY, died on April 4, 2010 in Charlottesville, VA. ADMN Kearns spent his 31 year, naval career on extensive sea duty in both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets. He served on the USS Compton during his early naval service. He was commanding officer of the USS Rantan, USS Arcturus, USS El Paso and commissioning commanding officer of the USS Nassau.**

**Vernon Foss, passed on June 7, 2012, Vernon served on the USS Compton and other ships during the WWII and the Korean Conflict. He retired after 20 years of service as a CWO-2 and 20 years with General Dynamics Electric Boat Division in Groton CT.**

**Larry Philip Coleman of Joplin, Missouri, died January 13, 2012. Larry served on the Compton in the 1950's out of Newport, RI**

**Leonard Ross Byrd of Parkersburg WV., died March 31, 2012, he served on the Compton during the Korean Conflict.**