
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 DiMonte – South Region
1048 Meadson Ave
Pensacola FL 32506
850 492-3483
bobdimo@cox.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



The Compton at war



Myrtle Beach Reunion Agenda

Friday— April 11

12:00 noon Hospitality room open. Reunion registration.

Saturday— April 12

9:00am Hospitality room open.
4:15pm Gather in lobby for tour.
4:30pm Busses leave the hotel for the Dinner at the Giant Crab and a premium show at the Alabama Theatre. (7:15 pre-show, 7:30pm show starts)
10:15pm Tour busses return to the hotel.

Sunday— April 13

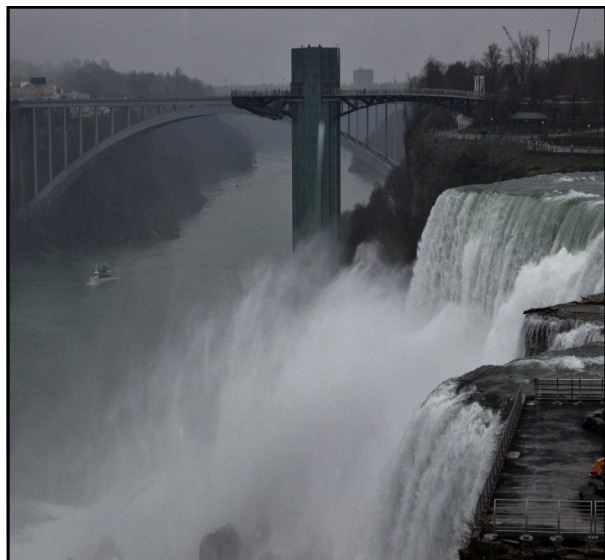
9:00 am Hospitality room open.
10:00am General meeting and Memorial Service.
6:00pm -11:00PM Banquet. Please be on time, we will have pictures taken By the photographers who took our pictures at our past reunions. Pictures will be on display later in the evening for purchase.

Monday— April 14

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

Additional Information is also on pages 6 and 7

I don't do drugs 'cause I find I get the same effect just by standing up really fast.



**Reunion 2013 to 2014—The roaring majesty of Niagara Falls
to the peaceful calm of Myrtle Beach**

Protecting President Kennedy

The recent 50th. Anniversary of President Kennedy's assassination brought back memories of when the USS Compton protected Kennedy.

Early in March of 1963, while at our home port of Newport, RI, we went to sea on a sudden and un-scheduled trip. We were not told our destination, or purpose of the trip, until we were out to sea. Back then we did not have cell phones and could not contact any one ashore so the trip was made in secret.

We traveled, in the company of several other destroyers, and met up with a carrier along the way. Our destination was the East Coast of Costa Rica. We then learned that President Kennedy was due to visit Costa Rica in the near future to attend the "Conference of Presidents of the Central American Republics." We had arrived, "on station", several days prior to his visit.

Our job was to patrol along the coast to prevent intrusions by persons in boats who could pose a threat to the President. We, along with about 5 other destroyers, each had a small portion of the coast to cover so that the entire Costa Rican coast was protected. The aircraft carrier, stationed several miles further out to sea, provided surveillance aircraft for added protection. At the time a crisis was developing in Cuba.

We patrolled an area of about 10 or 15 miles of the coast and we were quite close to shore, about a mile out at most. In fact, as we slowly cruised parallel with the shore we swayed from side to side as swells were beginning to develop into shore bound waves. The detail was hot and boring.

After a day or so of the monotonous duty a pleasant diversion was provided for our crew; at one end of our patrol station we put the motor whale boat in the water with a few guys, fishing poles, some beer and a CO2 fire extinguisher (to cool the beer). The Compton would then go to the other end of the patrol area and come back change the guys in the boat and provide a few more beers. The Compton's trip, North then South, took about 2 hours, or so, as I remember. This went on for several days.

When the President left Costa Rica we returned to Newport, another job well done by the Compton.

Memories from Joe Napoli

However, while Joe was comfortably maintaining communications , the snipes and BM's were painting the Compton on the side that would face the carrier when the President was watching the escort ships circle the carrier in the form of a salute.

I was over the fantail painting (not enough Bosun Mates) above the screws while the ship screws were not turning. This is why we were rolling from side to side.

Due to the shark infested waters, we had security guards with loaded weapons watching for a fin. I was hanging over the fantail throwing on a quick coat of paint (so the president would not see the ship's rust) while I was bobbing up and down.

While personally checking for sharks and slopping on paint, I noticed a dark shape underneath my dangling and bobbing position. I immediately shouted SHARK and everybody climbed up to the safety of the ship. I peered down and noticed that my dark shape was actually the stilled ship's screw.

This is the very first time I admitted that is what really happened.

Additional memories from Jack Heidecker

MEMORANDUM FROM THE DESK OF THE ALMIGHTY

TO: All Former Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines

SUBJECT: Which Military Service Is the Best

1. All branches of the United States Armed Forces are honorable and noble.
2. Each serves America well and with distinction.
3. Serving in the United States military represents a great honor warranting special respect, tribute, and dedication from your fellow man.
4. Always be proud of that.

Warm Regards,

GOD, U.S. Navy, (Ret.)

Three books which may be of interest to our crew. Info from Bob Nordstrom

"A view from the deck plates" by George J. Chambers -- a story of a sailor on destroyers from 1950 to 1970, which I am still reading.

"Norfolk to Abadan" by Louis J. Cattera-- story of a Med cruise and into the Near East in 1956 and 1957 by the USS Soloey DD707 which mentions Compton and Gainard as well as the Compton going aground near Bahrain and fouling her props. Nostalgic for those us having taken a Med cruise.

"The Gearing Incident" by W.D.Laremore about the USS Gearing DD710. A dull book about the ship being transported 20 years into the future but playing a minor role.

**Do you know that awesome moment
when you wake up in the morning
and you are full of energy?**



Me neither!



In the past—a very important tool

A POEM WORTH READING
And sharing!
(Author unknown)

He was getting
old and paunchy
And his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion,
Telling stories of the past.

Of a war that he once fought in
And the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies;
They were heroes, every one.
And 'tho sometimes to his neighbors
His tales became a joke,
All his buddies listened quietly
For they knew whereof he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer,
For old Bob has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer
For a Soldier died today.

He won't be mourned by many,
Just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary,
Very quiet sort of life.

He held a job and raised a family,
Going quietly on his way;
And the world won't note his passing,
'Tho a Soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth,
Their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing,
And proclaim that they were great.

Papers tell of their life stories
From the time that they were young
But the passing of a Soldier
Goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution
To the welfare of our land,
Someone who breaks his promise
And cons his fellow man?

While the ordinary Soldier,
Who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal
And perhaps a pension, small.

It is not the politicians
With their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom
That our country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger,
With your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out,
With his ever waffling stand?

Or would you want a Soldier--
His home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Soldier,
Who would fight until the end?

He was just a common Soldier,
And his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us
We may need his like again.

For when countries are in conflict,
We find the Soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles
That the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honor
While he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage
At the ending of his days.

Perhaps just a simple headline
In the paper that might say:
"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A SOLDIER DIED TODAY."





Med Cruise 2nd most memorable picture
Mount Vesuvius in the background of the Naples Harbor
Thanks to Grant Mauri—Compton member and professional photographer
Number 1 most memorable picture—the “Bluebird Club” of course

2014 Annual Reunion Form; Myrtle 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)

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

Number taking tour/show _____ (@\$85 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.

Myrtle Beach Reunion Tour Info, Banquet Menu and Room Rates.

You will have a choice of beef or chicken for your banquet meal. The selections are; Prime Rib or Chicken Marsala. Both entrees are served with fresh garden salad, vegetable, potato or rice, rolls and butter, dessert and beverage. If you need a special diet meal please note it on the registration form

As always, we will have a cash bar to purchase drinks. The cost of the banquet is \$50 a person. The banquet starts at 6:00 pm. Note your choice of meal on the registration form.

Our tour, which will be an evening event, on the Saturday of the reunion, includes a stop at a local iconic restaurant, The Giant Crab, for a buffet meal. It is said that they have a large selection which includes sea food. The busses will leave the hotel at 4:30 pm and arrive at The Giant Crab for a scheduled 5:00 pm dinner.

After dinner we will board the busses and go to the Alabama Theatre; the pre-show event starts at 7:15 pm and the actual show starts at 7:30 pm. Normally we would see the regular variety show, the “New” show, which is presented throughout the year. But, as luck would have it, we will see a premium celebrity show that evening. As of press time the Alabama Theatre had not signed the contract for the performance so the name of the show is not available yet. I can assure you that whatever the show is it will be something special. The name of the show should be available for our next newsletter or you can check with the theater in the near future if need be.

The price of the tour, which includes the meal, show and transportation, is \$85 a person.

Room rates are very reasonable and quite a few options are available. The room rates are higher on the weekend days and lower during the week so be prepared for the price difference. An interior room starts at \$54 weekday and \$62 for weekend nights for example. Other rooms offered range from Oceanview \$64 weekday, Oceanfront \$74 weekday, Oceanfront Efficiencies \$76 weekday, and four types of executive suites from \$74 to \$86 a night. A \$7 a night resort fee is also applied.

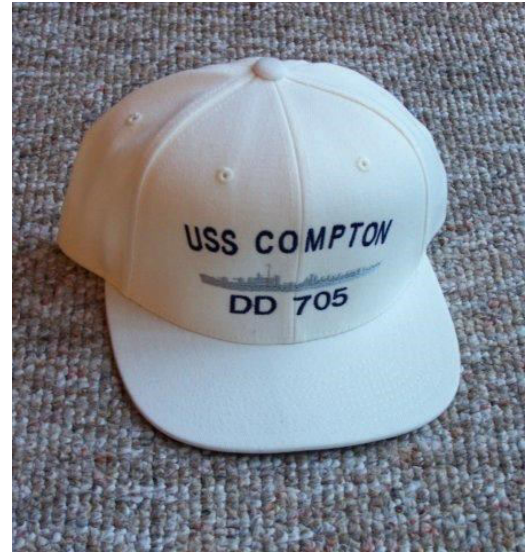
If you go to www.landmarkresort.com you can see diagrams of all the rooms and executive suites offered.

The reservation deadline date is March 10, 2014.

The reservation phone number is 800-845-0658.

The dates of the reunion are Friday April 11, Saturday April 12 and Sunday April 13. Reunion room rates will be available 3 days prior and after the event.

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...



New embroidered white Compton hats . We will have them at our next reunion or you can purchase one for \$15 (includes postage), send a check to the USS Compton Assn., PO Box 6621, Monroe Twp., NJ 08831-6621.

After a sea cruise, I realized how much I missed being at sea. We are now considering a Med cruise visiting some of my past favorite ports. Of course I'll have to pony up better than \$5,000 for the privilege. To think, Uncle Sam actually had to pay me to visit those same ports 50 years ago. Unknown sailor!

Sick Bay

Ron Moody— going in for the 13th operation, on the same knee, January 21, 2014

Obituary: USS Compton DD705

Emery "Rip" Jordan, East Boothbay, Maine on October 14, 2013. Rip served on the USS Compton during WW2 and was a friend of Compton Associate member Angus Walsh, from Australia, who met Rip, Christmas 1945, at the end of the war. They were great friends since that time and reunited at one of our Compton Association's reunions.

Peter Lux, Wendell, North Carolina on January 5, 2014. Peter was a past Compton Association member and attended one of the Avalon NJ reunions. Peter served on the Compton around 1946-1951, as an Electronic Technician.

Eugene "Gene" Misenheimer, Concord, North Carolina on January 12, 2014. Gene served on the USS Corry and the USS Compton during WW2.