
USS Compton Organization

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The Compton at war



Myrtle Beach Report

Another great reunion! This was our 25th reunion and we are still going strong! This year we held our three day event at the Landmark Resort, right on the beach, in Myrtle Beach, SC. We had 116 people attend, shipmates and guests, a nice crowd. The weather even cooperated this year, in the mid 70's each day, some were even brave enough to go swimming in the ocean. We had a large hospitality room, stocked with snacks and beverages, where we gathered daily. We socialized, looked at each other's old Navy pictures and, of course, told sea stories. On the second day of the reunion we had our group tour event. Over 100 of us filled two large busses in pursuit of happiness. First we were off the Giant Crab restaurant where we feasted on a large buffet. Then we were off to the Alabama Theatre to see a show, "Three Dog Night". The music from the 1970's brought back memories. Later that night it was back to the hospitality room where some shipmates lingered well after midnight. On the third, and final day, of the reunion we held our general meeting and memorial service at the Landmark Resort. At the general meeting the present officers were retained in office for another year. The members also voted to check out Baton Rouge as a site for a future reunion. The memorial service was once again somber as the names of departed shipmates were read off, accompanied by the ringing of a replica ships bell. Later that evening we held our banquet. At the start of the affair we snacked on cheese and crackers while others took turns posing for group photos. Shipmates from all time periods the Compton was in commission were represented, some from the 1940's, and a few from the 1970's, one serving in 1972, the year the Compton was decommissioned. The food was fantastic and we danced the night away. The DJ was quite the entertainer and made the evening even more enjoyable.

Next year: Gettysburg, PA. (Monday April 27 thru Wednesday April 29, 2015)



Not all of Washington DC
closes on a snow day!!!



Our Myrtle Beach crew enjoyed a wide range of food selections
at the "Giant Crab Restaurant" in Myrtle Beach SC
Tommy the crab was our host for this meal.

The Myrtle Beach Reunion photos have been uploaded to the Website.
www.usscomptonassociation.com
under reunions—myrtle beach

The Master Chief Petty Officer and the Master Gunnery Sergeant, two old friends, one a Marine and one a Sailor meet in a bar one day (I know it may be hard to imagine either a Sailor or a Marine being in a bar. They began to discuss which of them had had the more difficult and dangerous 30 year career.

The retired Marine Master Gunnery Sergeant begins: I graduated from high school, the next morning I was on the train for Parris Island, South Carolina. Following boot camp I found myself in a regiment assigned to the Iwo Jima assault. With my fellow Marines we fought our way to the top of Mount Suribachi. In Korea I was with Chesty Puller at Inchon, then we fought our way toward the Yalu River. In the cold Korean winter we fought at the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, I ended my career after Viet Nam where I spent 3 months in the Battle of Khe Sanh after stomping through endless rice paddies.

The Navy Master Chief looked him in the eye and took a long draw on his bottle of beer and said simply: "Well, that figures, all shore duty".



L-R, Ed Capozziello greets Ron and Marge Range. Cappy wanted to know where he has been since the St Louis reunion. Ron see you in Gettysburg!!



Carol and Bill Eames
Bill was the chief dispenser of the "APC" pills during the 1962 Med Cruize



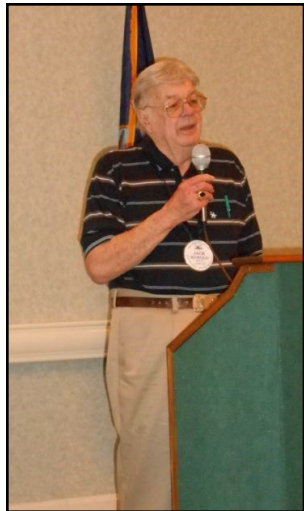
Tom and Maureen Lockwood
At their first reunion...



Congratulations to Phil Prekel who was elected to represent our Northeast District on the Compton Board of Directors !!

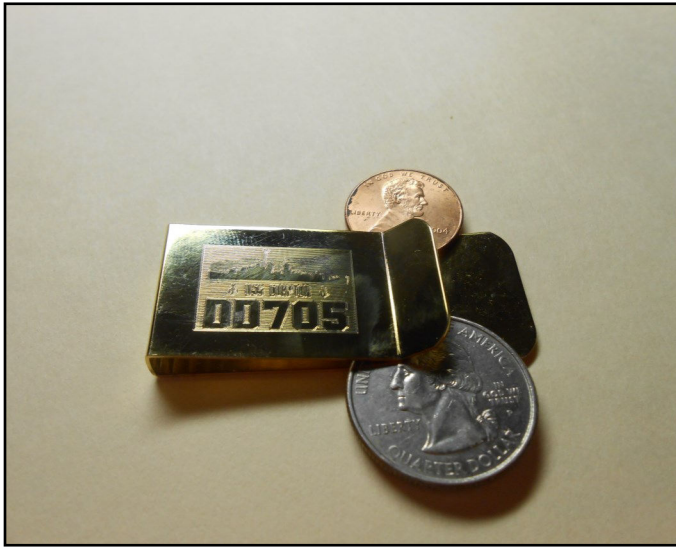


Congratulations to Captain Michael L. Elliott USN, son of Chuck and Mary Elliott on his prestigious promotion to Commandant of the Great Lakes Naval Reserve Training Center. Captain Elliott was the recent Commodore of Destroyer Squadron 1 out of Naval Base San Diego. We will always remember Captain Mike allowing us to tour his command, at that time, the USS Doyle FFG-39 during our Jacksonville FI Reunion.



Former Compton Association President and Commodore of the Chester Pennsylvania Boat Club, Jack Hunold offers his wisdom to the members at our annual meeting. Jack is very reasonable in his speaker fees as you can see on the right side picture collecting his pay. Millie, his understanding bride, just shakes her head.

Overheard at our recent Myrtle Beach Reunion
If you were stuck in a elevator, which movie star would you like to be stuck with?
One who can fix elevators—I am old, tired and I pee a lot!!!



Jerry Sample who provided these Compton money clips for our Buffalo reunion in 2013 and then promised that he would provide something to fill this gift when in Myrtle Beach. He also claimed that he dug deep into his retirement funds for this suitable gift!
I was deeply touched—Thanks Jerry.



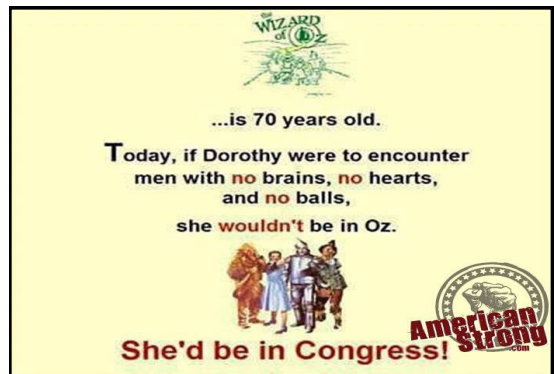
Actually, Jerry Sample has been donating the mementos for our recent reunions. The reunion attendees thank you, very much!!!



Ron Moody—has worked hard for the Association in finding new members and has attended the reunions in the above condition. After six years and a new doctor Ron promised to attend Gettysburg reunion—without the Wheelchair!!!



L-R, Marty and Vince DeGasperis
On the Compton—winter 1959



Donations

Shipmate, Ed Brimo sent \$200 to pay for his dues and toward the cost of the decals recently sent to our members.

Shipmate, Harold Richardson sent in \$100 to join and purchase a Compton hat.

New members:

Robert Chiesa—Mobile AL., 62 RM3

Richard Walbridge—Scituate MA., 64-66 SN

First time attendees, Compton Reunion, Myrtle Beach

Malcolm Campbell—Virginia Beach VA 61-62 FA

Edward Dagg—Medina OH 65-68 BTFN

Thomas Lockman—Paxton MA 61 SFM3



I'm retired. Go around me.

Now that I'm older and wiser, here's what I've discovered:

1. I started out with nothing, and I still have most of it.
2. My wild oats have turned into prunes and all-bran.
3. I finally got my head together, and now my body is falling apart.
4. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
5. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
6. If all is not lost, where is it?
7. It is easier to get older than it is to get wiser.
8. Some days, you're the dog; some days you're the hydrant.
9. I wish the buck stopped here; I sure could use a few.
10. Kids in the back seat cause accidents.
11. Accidents in the back seat cause kids.
12. It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.
13. The only time the world beats a path to your door is when you're in the bathroom.
14. If God wanted me to touch my toes, he'd have put them on my knees.
15. When I'm finally holding all the cards, why does everyone want to play chess?
16. Its not hard to meet expenses . . . they're everywhere.
17. The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.
18. These days, I spend a lot of time thinking about the hereafter
.. .I go somewhere to get something, and then wonder what I'm hereafter
19. Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded.
- 20.**DID I SEND THESE TO YOU BEFORE.....??????**

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...

Update on Bud Foley, April 24, 2014 - Vice President Emeritus and Compton Adviser

Today Bud not only looked just wonderful but he was also upbeat. He is off all medication and eating. Last night he had chicken pot pie and today for breakfast he had French toast. He did not eat any lunch, said he wasn't hungry. Using a walker, he walked a bit. Tomorrow he will be moved to St Lawrence Rehab in Lawrenceville, NJ!!!! (Just when I thought God forgot all about me, he answered my prayers!!!!) He still has a long way to go, so he still needs lots of prayers.

I know that in my great big dictionary there's gotta be some words to adequately express our gratitude to all of you for helping us to get thru this, but I can't find them! I can only say thank you and hope that you somehow know how grateful we are . Anne Foley

Obituary: USS Compton DD705

**Day is done, Gone the sun
From the lakes, From the hills
From the sky, All is well
Safely rest, God is nigh**

Ronald Gene Gronback, Sr. of Wethersfield, Connecticut passed away peacefully in Grantsboro, North Carolina on February 5, 2014 at the age of 86. Born August 19, 1927. He joined the Navy at an early age and served in the 5th Pacific Fleet from 1947 to 1949, working as a Mechanic 3rd Class on the USS Compton.

Raymond J Freemer, 72 passed on March 14, 2014 at Saint Joseph's in Syracuse New York. He retired as a Master Chief proudly serving in the Navy for 21 years. Raymond served on various ships including the USS Compton DD 705.

Michael J Ferriter, passed on March 14, 2014 he lived in Sterling, New York. Mike was a great friend of association member Michael Heider who notified us of his passing. They served together on the Compton in the Forward Engine Room. Mike Ferriter MM2 was on the Compton during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Paul Barry, passed on March 18, 2014 in Kingston, MA. Paul served in the navy on the USS Compton, He founded "Doughboy Donuts" which evolved into the multi store, Doughboy Police Supply.