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The Compton at war



Commissioned November 4 1944  
 Decommissioned—September 27 1972

**Gettysburg Reunion**

Our Gettysburg reunion will be here shortly. As you know, from our last newsletter, we are using our long established procedures. The first day, Monday, is our registration. Although many shipmates come a day or so earlier. The second day, Tuesday, is our tour day. The morning bus tour of the battlefield also includes lunch at a historical restaurant. The third day, Wednesday, is when we hold our meeting, Memorial service and banquet. Many shipmates also stay a few days longer to see the local sights. The reunion discounted room rate is available prior to and after the actual reunion. Holding a mid-week event, rather than over a weekend, allowed us to get a better room rate.

The banquet, as we have been doing in the past, is in casual dress. Prior to the meal being served, we will take group pictures. This year we have contracted a DJ company, Partytyme Entertainment, to provide music for our dancing pleasure. The owner of the company, Barry Hart, a gentleman of our age bracket, will be our DJ and will put on a 60's themed event. He is looking forward to playing music that he actually likes. I know we are going to have a great time.

Please observe the registration cut-off date of Friday March 27<sup>th</sup>. It is important to have registration information as early as possible so that we can provide head counts for the tour and banquet. Hotel reservations can be canceled 72 hours prior to the event without penalty.

Reunion questions? Call or email Joe Napoli [jsnap29@comcast.net](mailto:jsnap29@comcast.net)

## “IT’S THE SOLDIER”

Picture in your mind the soldier at Valley Forge, as he holds his musket in his bloody hands. He stands barefoot in the snow, starved from lack of food, wounded from months of battle and emotionally scarred from the eternity away from his family, surrounded by nothing but death and carnage of war. He stands tough, though with fire in his eyes and victory in his breath.

He looks at us now in anger and disgust and tells us this. . .

I gave you a birthright of freedom born in the Constitution and now your children graduate too illiterate to read.

I fought in the snow barefoot to give you the freedom to vote, and you stay at home because it rains.

I left my family destitute to give you the freedom of speech and you remain silent on critical issues, because it might be bad for business.

I orphaned my children to give you a government to serve you and it has stolen democracy from the people.

It’s the soldier, not the reporter who gives you Freedom of the Press.

It’s the soldier who salutes the flag, serves the flag, whose coffin is draped with the flag that allows the protester to burn the flag.

Lord, hold our troops in Your loving hands! Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen !!!

### WHAT THE NAVY DID FOR US .... From former NKP Reunion Association President Vernon Vance’s address to the 2008 Gettysburg Reunion attendees:

Ed. note ... also published in July/August/Sept. issue of Tin Can Sailor (mail call), pp. 36,37

Being navy veterans, we are often recognized for our service to our country. Perhaps less often, do those of us who served give thought to what the navy did for us. Following, are a few of the things for which most of us can be thankful:

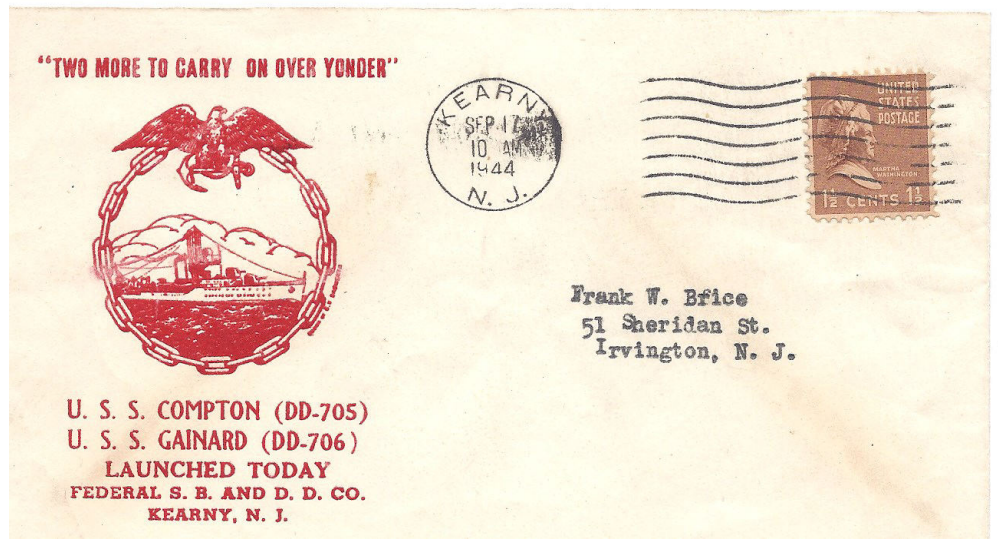
The navy took most of us during our late adolescence, guided us through some of the most difficult years of our lives, and turned us out as men.

- The navy taught us respect for authority, discipline, and the value of teamwork.
- The navy increased our respect for those who went before us and, in many ways, gave more than we did.
- The navy deepened our patriotism, respect for our flag, and devotion to our country.
- The navy provided us with the opportunity to continue our education in trade or technical schools, or in college.

**The navy gave us a circle of comrades and the opportunity to come together once a year to renew and maintain lifelong friendships.**



Bob Schaefer SM3  
What is an SM3 swabbing?  
He is washing his flags..  
Grant Mauri Collection.



September 17 1944—The Compton and the Gainard were launched this day.  
They both served our country well—as we their proud sailors served on them



Picture from the Compton of a fueling at sea...  
Grant Mauri Collection...



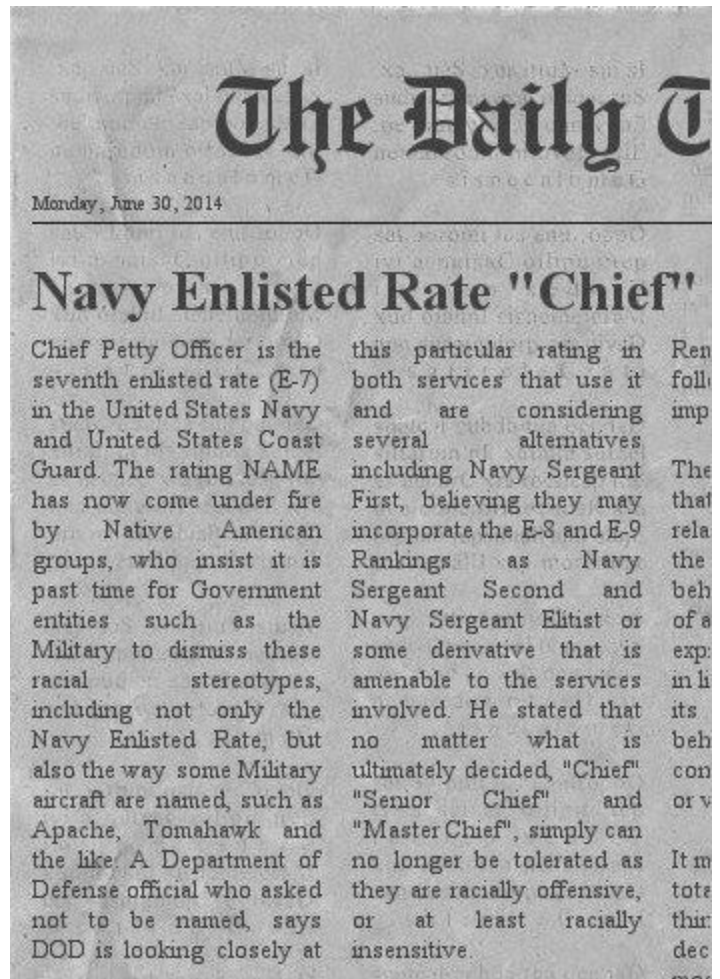
Gift from the Captain in 1959  
at \$1.00 per carton  
that was a 20 cent gift...  
If he paid for them??



This is the way it was  
The USS Compton under the flag of the  
United States of America!!!



*"Stop avoiding me. I know when you are sleeping.  
I know when you're awake."*



Going "overboard" with political correctness !!

# Gettysburg Reunion Registration form

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/guest \_\_\_\_\_

Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_ Years aboard \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

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

(Attach additional names if necessary.)

Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet Meal Selection: Pork \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_

**(@ \$55 per person)**

Number taking tour \_\_\_\_\_ (**@\$55 per person lunch included**)

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 Friday March 27.**

**\*\*\* If you already sent your meal selection in to Joe—there is no beef choice it will be auto changed to pork—contact him if this will be a problem—609 409 7678 or when you check in at Gettysburg notify us of your new meal choice, at the Compton desk**

## Gettysburg Reunion Agenda

Wyndham Gettysburg Hotel

717-339-0020

### **Monday April 27**

**12:00 Noon,, Hospitality Room open.** Reunion registration.

### **Tuesday April 28**

9:00 am Hospitality Room open.

9:45 am Gather in lobby for battlefield tour.

10:00 am Busses leave hotel for tour.

12:20 pm Arrive at Dobbin House for lunch.

1:30 pm Return to hotel.

### **Wednesday April 29**

9:00 am Hospitality Room open.

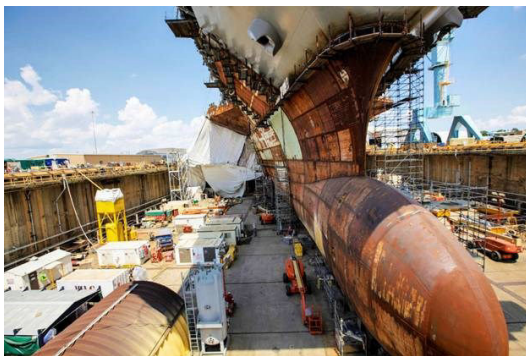
10:00 am General meeting and Memorial Service.

6:00 pm Banquet. Group pictures prior to meal.

**Thursday April 30—Have a safe trip home**

**The United States is building its next generation of aircraft carrier, the FORD-class carriers.**

**USS Gerald R. Ford at Newport News Shipbuilding, Virginia. The numbers behind the USS Gerald R. Ford are impressive; about \$14 billion in total cost, 224 million pounds, about 25 stories high, 1,106 feet long, and 250 feet wide. But the sheer enormity of the ship and construction operation is hard to grasp until you are nearly face-to-metal with the massive military beast. At Newport News Shipbuilding the power of new technology and 100 years of carrier design is built into every facet of the new ship. The Ford will handle up to 220 takeoffs and landings from its deck every day. Part of that quick turnaround is because, when aircraft like the new F-35 return for maintenance, the planes network will already have alerted ground crews to what is needed so they can get the aircraft on its way faster than ever before. The new FORD-class aircraft carrier will be the largest, most lethal ship ever when it joins the US fleet in 2016. When the Ford finally hits the water in a few years, it will look like something from the future.**



**Crane capable of lifting 2.5 million tons Needed for this size ship...**

Customized Plated Banquet  
Wednesday, April 29, 2015

Salad

Seasonal Mixed Lettuces, Tomato, Cucumber and Bermuda Onions with  
Choice of Dressing  
Assortment of Rolls with Butter

(Choice of one (1) Per Person

- Rosemary-Lemon Breast of Chicken with Polenta “Au Gratin” and Corn Succotash with Pan Juices
- or
- Pan Seared Filet of Salmon with Leek and Lentil Gratin served with Seasonal Fresh Vegetables
- or
- Braised Pork Shank Served with Bacon Mashed Potatoes, Caramelized Carrot and Cauliflower with Pan juices

Dessert

New York Cheesecake with Whipped Cream and Raspberry Coulis

Coffee, Fine Teas, Iced Tea

Below pictures—Phil Prekel collection



The first class petty officers who ran R division  
L-R, McCall DC1, DiMonte EM1, Rayfield MM1  
(circa 1972)



How do you start this little whale boat??  
How many EM1's do they need?—EM1 Stone bow riding

Annual USS Compton Association dues are \$20.00 per year. If you received an envelope with this newsletter the dues or 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 expired or will soon expire...

**The biggest lie I tell myself is ..."I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."**

**Sick Bay**

**Bud Foley—one of the Compton Association's founders is in rehab to help the circulation in his legs. His recovery is long and hard and a strong prayer response will help Bud in his recovery efforts. Also, his address is: Bud Foley, 4440 Nottingham Way, Hamilton**

**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**



**Elmer Tidwell, GM2, 1952-1955 passed September 29 2010 at age 85 in Fall River MA. Elmer was a former member of the Compton Association and last attended the Portland ME reunion in 2001**

**Jim Byrne, MEG3 (Metal Smith) circa 1950-1951, born 9/03/1928 passed June 16 2013. He loved the Compton attended the reunions and wore his Compton hat with pride. According to his son he rarely left the Bronx except to be with his shipmates.**

**Robert W Wolf LCDR, a former member of our association for many years passed on September 18 2014 in Naples FL. Commander Wolf was assigned to the Compton but, served as a member of ComDesRon 12 staff. Maurice Rickard, our Compton Historian had been communicating with Mr. Wolf, who last attended our Charleston SC Reunion.**

**Kermit M Singley Jr., FT3C, 12/1950 to 8/1954 passed on October 14 2014 in the Tampa Florida area.**

**Hank Foglino ET2, 1952—1955, passed on October 26 2014. Hank was an active member of the Compton Association and last attended the Charleston Reunion. His recent address was in Smithtown NY. As**

**Rest in Peace—Our Fellow Shipmates**