
USS Compton Organization

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The Compton at war



Commissioned November 4 1944
Decommissioned—September 27 1972

Why go to a Compton reunion—I don’t know anybody???

At a reunion a few years ago—a new couple reluctantly came to our reunion. The wife said to me “we don’t know anybody” - later she told me—60 years turned to yesterday as my husband started meeting old and new shipmates—I am so glad we decided to attend...

Rich Walbridge, after the Gettysburg Reunion, wrote the following letter:

Okay guys...here is the skinny...The Compton Reunion was awesome! We had 50 guys there and about 35 wives and girlfriends.

You gotta go the next time. It is a good deal and the arrangements are right on with things to do when we are not shooting the breeze about old times. The bar in the social gathering room was always open...beer, soda, booze and munchies. It was great.

It was fun swapping stories with some older guys who made Med Cruises and they thought our Gitmo Log was excellent. Even our trip up the St. Lawrence was a hit with some of them.

Generally, it was not as boring as some of you might have thought and one of the things I was worried about was that my wife Dottie had a good time too. She was chatting with lots of the ladies about a hundred different things...mostly about our lives and their lives not related to the USN.

The Compton Association is holding their (our) next reunion in Baton Rouge LA next April. But, the year after that is in Boston.

I met a few guys on the ship when I was there too. Emile Duchemin was a BT. He and I chatted



On many occasions about other guys and their experiences. We had a great time rehashing the incident where Summers and the others stole the 45’s from the small arms locker. We shared photos and even got the USS Compton Shipmates Facebook page moving again. Remember Mike Flannery? He is a retired Chief! He was there and now he is helping to run the Facebook page along with Ron Moody (12/61—11/63) who was onboard much earlier than most of us.

I found a great photo of “Rabbit” Flemming hanging by his belt loops up the portside Yard Arm.

Ron Moody helps to find members; he is working to find fellow shipmates. so if anyone has anyone to add he is the guy to contact. I can help too.

I met more guys who were there before me, but we had one thing in common...the ship and the time we served aboard was pretty typical.

Take a look at getting on Facebook and then look up USS Compton shipmates.

See Ya

WEB SITE: www.usscomptonassociation.com



USS Missouri BB63 firing a broadside at the start of the Iraq war 1991—Desert Storm



Do you think this Blue Angel got in trouble for flying under the Golden Gate bridge??



Ron Moody—Chief Recruiter for our association.



1955 Med Cruise
L-R, Schroeder F, Weingartner J, Purdy R, Lynch J, Therrien E, Bergeron G, Bragdon C, Link F.

“I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, One Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”



Bill Rader, Plank Owner—receives a donated and homemade Compton blanket. Joe Napoli and Jack Heidecker in background.



Herb Sellers and his harem of dancing girls...



Emil Duchemin reading the names of the known Compton sailors who are deceased— during our memorial service.



Terry Swafford and Joe Napoli

**GOVERNMENT'S
FIRST DUTY IS
TO PROTECT
THE PEOPLE,
NOT RUN THEIR
LIVES.**

- REAGAN



Our enlisted "Admirals" Pierce, Sellers and Rader



I was so very proud to be the closing speaker at the Elks Memorial Day Service and spoke of our men who served on the Compton during the war and those who helped preserve the peace after WW2...



Compton (inboard) and Gainard in port. Check the vintage of those vehicles lining the dock!!!
Jack Valentine collection...



Two old Compton shipmates
L-R
Rich Volpicelli and
Grant Mauri
reunited after
50 plus years...

Social Security benefit for active military service—January 1957 to December 31, 2001

In a nutshell it boils down to this—you may qualify for a higher social security payment because of active duty service during the above time frame—this program was cancelled 1 January 2002.

Up to \$1,200.00 per year of earning credits can be applied to your earnings and could make a difference in your monthly social security income.

This is not automatic—you must bring your DD214 to the Social Security Office and ask for the benefit info from Bob DiMonte—via the Internet

Gettysburg Tour—Lunch at the Dobbin House Tavern
The Oldest (1776) and most Historic House in Gettysburg...



Same group but, different restaurant—
Stephen Bednarz taking the picture...



Mildred and Larry Farnham
Do PO2's go first—like on the Compton??



L-R, Paul and Bernadette Evans and
Earl and Evelyn Clay



Mike Heider and Frank Milanese



Nowakowski, Taylor and Herb Sellers



Let's get out of here—I saw the bill!!!

Occasionally, I venture back to NAS, Meridian, where I'm greeted by an imposing security guard who looks carefully at my identification card, hands it back and says, "Have a good day, Sr. Chief".

Every time I go back to any Navy Base it feels good to be called by my previous rank, but odd to be in civilian clothes, walking among the servicemen and service women going about their duties as I once did, many years ago.

The military is a comfort zone for anyone who has ever worn the uniform.

It's a place where you know the rules and know they are enforced - a place where everybody is busy, but not too busy to take care of business.

Because there exists behind the gates of every military facility an institutional understanding of respect, order, uniformity, accountability and dedication that becomes part of your marrow and never, ever leaves you.

Personally, I miss the fact that you always knew where you stood in the military, and who you were dealing with. That's because you could read somebody's uniform from 20 feet away and know the score.

Service personnel wear their careers on their sleeves, so to speak. When you approach each other, you can read their name tag, examine their rank and, if they are in dress uniform, read their ribbons and know where they've served.

I miss all those little things you take for granted when you're in the ranks, like breaking starch on a set of fatigues fresh from the laundry and standing in a perfectly straight line military formation that looks like a mirror as it stretches to the endless horizon.

I miss the sight of troops marching in the early morning mist, the sound of boot heels thumping in unison on the tarmac, the bark of drill instructors and the sing-song answers from the squads as they pass by in review.

To romanticize military service is to be far removed from its reality, because it's very serious business -- especially in times of war.

But I miss the salutes I'd throw at officers and the crisp returns as we criss-crossed with a "by your leave sir".

I miss the smell of jet fuel hanging heavily on the night air and the sound of engines roaring down runways and disappearing into the clouds. The same while on carrier duty.

I even miss the hurry-up-and-wait mentality that enlisted men gripe about constantly, a masterful invention that bonded people more than they'll ever know or admit.

I miss people taking off their hats when they enter a building, speaking directly and clearly to others and never showing disrespect for rank, race, religion or gender.

Mostly, I miss being a small cog in a machine so complex it constantly circumnavigates the Earth and so simple it feeds everyone on time, three times a day, on the ground, in the air or at sea.

Mostly, I don't know anyone who has served who regrets it, and doesn't feel a sense of pride when they pass through those gates and re-enter the world they left behind with their youth.

I wish I could express my thoughts as well about something I loved -- and hated sometimes.

Face it guys - we all miss it...Whether you had one tour or a career, it shaped your life.

Email from Mike Flynn

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...

Thank you to those Compton members who sent additional donations with their dues.

Charles Elliott RD3 (54-55)
Jim Evans LTJG (60-62)
Roy Fuller SK3 (62-64)
Mike Flynn FTSN (53-54)
Allan Gilmore SHB3 (51-53)
Willie Thompson MM3 (55-59)

New Member
Donald Armstrong SN (59-60)
Crescent FL

Hong Kong Elementary School First Grade Student Admissions Test Question



香港小学入学考试题: 21题 Hong Kong Elementary School Admissions Test Question #21

What parking spot # is the car parked in?

请问汽车停的是几号车位?

请在20秒内完成回答

Please answer within 20 seconds

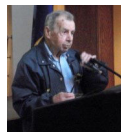
Obituary: USS Compton DD705

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



Lou Rainone, 79, RD2 (1954-56) - Longwood, FL passed, 12- 26—2014. Lou was an active member of the Compton Association and a \$50.00 donation, in his name will be sent to “Tin Can Sailors”. He was a true gentleman and a faithful Christian. Lou is survived by his wife Romana and two sons, Larry and Mike.

Compton Chaplain Charlie Jakob, 90, FT2 (1952-55) passed June 19 2015.



Charlie was a good Christian and very active during our reunions. He was provided with a beautiful send off by a Navy Honor Guard and was buried with his Compton jacket and cap which he wore with great joy. We will so miss his annual “rain dance” at each reunion. Go with God, Charlie!!

Guy Fix, 71, (1962—med cruise) 1st Division passed June 10 2015. Guy was a faithful member of the Waynesboro Mennonite Church Virginia and served on the Compton during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Francis Davis, 74, ETN3, (1960-61) passed February 25, 2015. Francis was from Shelton WA and was an active member of the Compton Association and a \$50.00 donation will be made to “Tin Can Sailors” in his honor.

Robert “Jack” Kelly, 84, (Korean Conflict) passed May 4 2015. He served on the USS Woodson, USS Compton and the USS Stoddard and was discharged in 1955. Jack was a long term resident of Bartlesville OK. After his naval service ended, he obtained a BS and Master’s degree in education.

