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**USS Compton Organization**

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The Compton at war



Commissioned November 4 1944  
 Decommissioned—September 27 1972

**Baton Rouge Reunion**

Our next reunion is going to be in Baton Rouge, LA., as decided by a vote of our members at our last reunion. The dates of the reunion are; Friday April 29, Saturday April 30 thru Sunday May 1. As always the discounted reunion room rate is available 3 days prior and after the actual event.

We will stay at the Radisson Baton Rouge Hotel. The hotel gets good reviews online at TripAdvisor.com.

The room rate is \$95.99 a night plus tax. Included in the room price is a breakfast daily for two. You must call and make your own reservation by calling 225-236-4000. The reservation cutoff date is March 29, 2016.

We have contracted for a day long motor coach tour on the Saturday of the reunion. Our first destination will be the Cajun Pride Swamp Tour. The local Visitor’s Bureau said that the tour is a “must” for those visiting the Baton Rouge area. It also gets rave reviews on TripAdvisor. (CajunPrideTours.com)

After the swamp tour we stop at Ralph and Kacoo’s Restaurant for lunch which is included in the price of the tour. Quite a large selection of entrees are offered and you can choose at the time of the meal.

After lunch we are off to the USS Kidd (DD-661) (Fletcher class) Veterans Memorial and museum. The USS Kidd is located on the Mississippi River. (It is also right next to the Belle of Baton Rouge Casino) The price of the complete tour, with lunch, will be \$75 a person.

On the Sunday of the reunion we will have our General Meeting, Memorial Service and later our banquet at the Radisson Baton Rouge Hotel. At the banquet we will be entertained by a local Cajun dance troupe, Les Danseurs de Baton Rouge, they come highly recommended and promise to put on a fantastic show.

“America will never be destroyed from the outside.  
 If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves”.  
 Abraham Lincoln

## **2016 Annual Reunion Form; Baton Rouge**

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 if necessary.)

Meal Selection: Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Fish \_\_\_\_\_ (@ \$50 per person)

Number taking tour \_\_\_\_\_ (@\$75 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 29 2016.**

# Baton Rouge Banquet Menu

## ***"Dining with a Cajun flair"***

Assorted Appetizer Selections  
Starter - Gumbo soup with rice

Entrée - Choose one: Pot Roast or Fried Catfish  
Vegetables and Roasted potatoes

Dessert - Local flavor Bread Pudding

All meals come with rolls and butter, Ice Tea and Coffee.

Special Diet Meals—available upon request

Received a note from Rich and Vera Post – regular attendees at the Compton Reunions

Those members who plan on other sightseeing tours in conjunction with the Compton Reunion have available a "Spotlight on New Orleans" tour which runs from April 25 – 29, 2016 and would fit right in with the Compton Baton Rouge reunion of April 29th to May 1 2016.

This tour of New Orleans is sponsored by Collette Gateway Tours thru Tom's Travel, 248 474-2692 or email: travelwithtom48@gmail.com.

This will be a first class tour and will include the hotel, 6 meals and guides. Rich and Vera Post have requested Tom's Travel to hold 15 reservations for this tour, expiring on December 2, 2015. After that it will be on a space available basis. Cost will be \$1,319 per person, double occupancy.

The Compton Association is only bringing this information to your attention and is not involved in this special tour and all arraignments will be on your own responsibility.

"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.

## The house that Jack (and son) built



Ever wonder what a retired “USS Compton Association” president does —Jack Hunold took this old pickup truck and along with his son (the real talent) and put together this “Win-a-bagel”...  
I think the real incentive was another “shape up or ship out” warning from ( the bride ) Millie.  
But, nice enough to make the local newspaper





HAPPY 240<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY  
TO THE U.S. NAVY

OCTOBER 13, 1775  OCTOBER 13, 2015

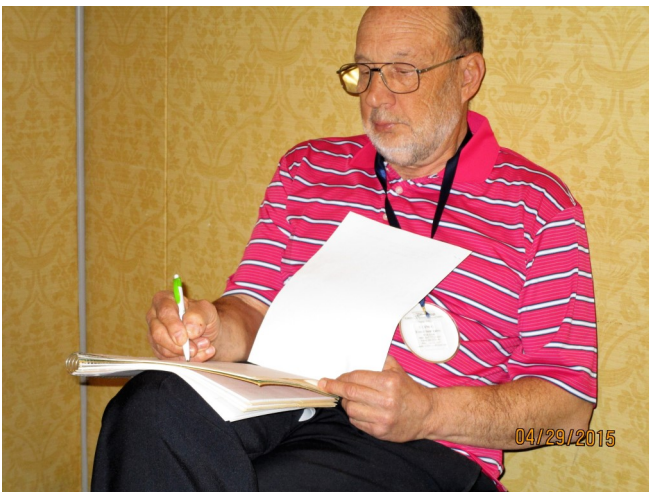
**I MAY NOT HAVE A PhD  
BUT I DO HAVE A  
DD-214**



Re-enactor guarding the Gettysburg battlefield



General Robert E Lee sits upon Traveller who's has all four hoofs on the ground which signifies that his rider survived the war and later died of natural causes.  
(note: there are some inconsistency, from other wars, with the warrior's outcome and position of the hoofs)



Did you think that Mike Taylor is taking minutes at our Compton meeting—No, he is making a list of what he is taking to Albuquerque NM when he moves there...

Memories from Shipmate Jack Henderson to Joe Napoli:

This article contains memories as related to me in several phone conversations. When Jack was 17 he joined the Navy and served a little over 4 years. From 1948 to 1949 he was a Radioman aboard the USS Compton. All of the stories he spoke of were interesting and worthy of sharing with our shipmates. What interested me most, however, was the activities of the Compton in 1948 off the coast of Haifa, Palestine, which if my geography is correct, is now in Israel. I had never heard anything about the Compton during that period of time.

Jack recalls the Compton being sent to the area to protect Jewish settlers going to Palestine - - after being displaced during WW2. It was part of a United Nations operation. He spoke of people heading towards land in all types boats. A French ship accompanied the Compton and they both anchored very close to land. Jack could see the early fighters of the now Israeli army, both men and women, in camp close to shore. Gunfire could also be heard from small arms. He was sure that the Compton flew a blue and white United Nations flag at the fantail while at anchor.

A radio message was received from the French ship which stated that they were under threat of attack by 30 Egyptian bombers. Jack delivered the message to the captain and the captain did not believe the message saying that the Egyptians did not have 30 bombers. He wanted confirmation of the message and the French ship lowered the number of bombers to 13. Jack said that he later saw 3 planes pass close by but could not identify them. Gunfire soon followed but did not know if that involved the planes.

I don't think that Jack was the model seaman while aboard the Compton. Jack said that he did not drink coffee, and does not to this day. While in the radio shack the guys took turn making coffee but Jack contended that he did not have to make coffee because he did not drink it. Evidently this did not go over too well and he was brought up on charges after refusing an order to make coffee. At Captain's Mast he was fined \$25 and had to do extra work starting at 1600 hours, the end of the normal work day, for a period of time. He said he chipped a lot of paint. Even after that he never made coffee.

Jack spoke of one weekend, while in Newport, that he went home. It was not a weekend that he had liberty but that did not alter his plans. When he returned to the ship he was shocked that no one made a big deal of the incident. The XO at the time knew of Jack and, for some reason, treated him like his son. When the next weekend came around the XO just told Jack that he was restricted and could not go home. Jack accepted that.



I believe that this is the first picture, in our collection, of Steve Bednarz that was not taken in a restaurant !!!



Mike Taylor "Hey Tony Z" want to go to Albuquerque with me. I think Mike doesn't have a GPS. I can hear Al Haley in the back saying—Are there any good golf courses there—I'll go...

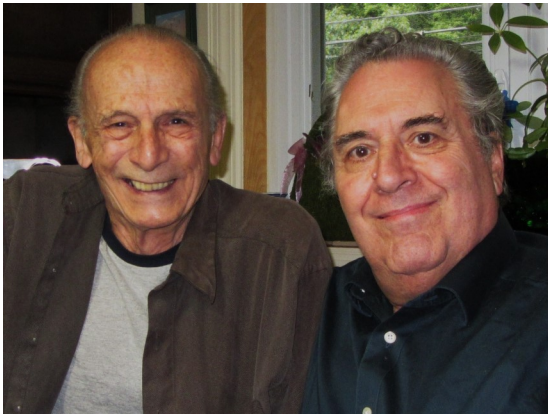
**Very interesting and scary story about two of our active Compton Association members  
Grant Mauri and Frank Caccioppoli**

**In December 16 1960, (Google) there was a collision of two planes over Staten Island, New York with debris also falling into Prospect Park.**

**Frank and I lived across from each other and went to Boot Camp together. After camp, we were scheduled to board that TWA flight home. We were the last two people in line and were told they could not accept any more passengers on that flight as it was booked full.**

**There was availability on a Military Air Transport (MAT) and we had our ride home. Keeping it scary, this plane lost a engine, on my side, and we had to make an emergency landing in New Jersey.**

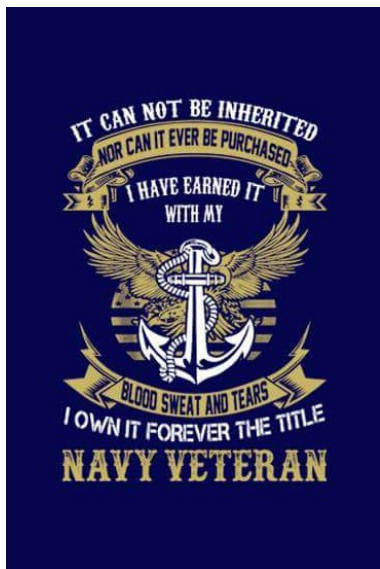
**We finally made it home at 2:00 AM and walked in the house and both families were there crying over the two of us—who were scheduled to be on that ill-fated plane.**



**L-R Frank and Grant**



**The United plane that crashed**



**Jack Heidecker seeking advice from the other Prez.**



I think Joe Napoli would make a good Evangelist Preacher.  
Is this Compton lady scared or saved??

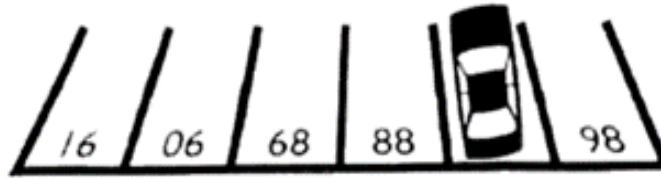
Fellow Compton sailors: please send me your pictures from your days on our ship.  
I promise to send them back the very next day, after I receive those special memories.  
**Jack Heidecker**  
54 Mt Top Ct  
Hazle Twp PA 18202  
570 450-5545

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...

Just a little note to thank those Compton Sailors who send in a little extra with their dues:  
Dave Scott, Jack Henderson and Joe Nowakowski...



### Hong Kong Elementary School First Grade Student Admissions Test Question



Just in case you did not find what # space the car is parked.  
Turn the page upside down...

### 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**



**Orrin J Ray**, passed, October 27, 2012 (77 years old), at the New York State Veteran's Home in Montrose. He is listed in the 1953 Cruise Book as a Gunner's Mate. Orrin served on the Compton during the Korean Conflict.

**Joseph P Navarro** (sometimes spelled with a), TM3 passed on May 9 2007, born 09/24/1937 in New Britain CT. Info was received from his sister Rose via the Compton email site.

**William Strahl**, SK2 (1961-1964, passed May 13, 2015. Bill attended the recent Gettysburg Reunion with his sons. 234 Vaught Rd. Winchester KY 40391

**Richard R McGrath**, aged 83, died Monday, August 17, 2015 at West Bridgewater MA.

**Yolanda M Foley**, passed on August 26, 2015. Yolanda was the wife of Ed Foley one of the co-founders of the USS Compton Association. Yolanda was also very active in the support and foundation of our Associations beginnings.  
Thank you, Yolanda



**Joe Bonaventura**, age 86, passed August 28 2015, while mowing his lawn. Joe was a very active member and on the Compton Association Board of Director for the East Coast. Joe served in the US Navy and on the Compton ( GM1/C) from Sept 1948 to June 1956 and then in the US Air force for 11 years.  
Joe and his wife Cathy attended many reunions. He personified the word "gentleman".  
A donation, in his memory, will be made to "Tin Can Sailors".

**John Malski**—No other information is available. Shipmate Joe Nowakowski went to visit John Malski who is from Joe's area. John's son informed Joe that his father, from Detroit, was murdered years before. John Malski was on the Compton during the 1960 and 1962 Med Cruises.