
USS Compton Organization

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The Compton at war



Commissioned November 4 1944
Decommissioned—September 27 1972

Charleston Reunion—April 23—25, 2018 and pay our respects to the—
USS Laffey DD724—last Sumner Class Destroyer...

THE SHIP THAT WOULD NOT DIE

USS LAFFEY (DD-724) is the most decorated World War II era US Destroyer still in existence. DD-724 was named in honor of LAFFEY (DD-459), sunk during the Naval Battle for Guadalcanal (13 November 1942). Both ships were named in honor of Seaman Bartlett Laffey, a Civil War Medal of Honor recipient.

April 16, 1945

While operating off Okinawa, she was attacked by 22 Japanese bombers and Kamikaze killing 32 and wounding 71 of the 336-man crew. The heroic crew shot down 9 Kamikaze aircraft and saved the damaged ship earning her the nickname: “The Ship That Would Not Die.”

The crew of the USS Compton DD705 will be honored to tour a sister ship at our Charleston Reunion...

Over the course of this last year **USS Compton refrigerator magnets** were mailed out, usually when dues were paid, to all our shipmates. They were similar in appearance to the Compton “serpent” logo decals. If by chance we missed you, let us know and we will send you one.

It appears that our vendor was more than generous when providing the magnets. After sending out the planned one to a member we have quite a few left over. If you would like extra magnets just let us know how many you would like. We will honor all requests while the supply lasts.

Magnets will be sent to you free of charge.

Contact Joe Napoli, contact info on first page of this newsletter.

The “Compton Newsletter” is available in color—on our active WEB site
Webmaster, Phil Prekel has posted 35 past newsletters from February 2009
to the present on our below listed Internet Website...

Charleston 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: Chicken _____ Beef _____ (@ \$55 per person)

Number taking tour _____ (@\$85 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 Thursday March 22

Charleston Banquet Menu

Dinner entrees served with petite rolls
Garden salad (choice of two dressings)

Entrees;

Filet Medallions with mushroom Demi-glace

Grilled Balsamic Chicken Breast with Tomato, Basil, Mozzarella and Balsamic Drizzle.

Dessert; Cheese cake, Coffee

- A woman marries a man expecting he will change, but he doesn't.
A man marries a woman expecting that she won't change, but she does.

Charleston 2018 Reunion Agenda

Monday April 23

12:00 noon Hospitality room open, reunion registration, refreshments.

Tuesday April 24

6:00am-10:00am Breakfast in the Sweetgrass Restaurant

8:45 am Gather for group tour.

9:00am Busses leave the hotel for the driving tour of Charleston and Patriot's Point.
Hospitality room open for those not taking the tour.

11:30am Tour lunch at the Harbor Breeze Restaurant.

3:30pm Tour leaves Patriot's Point for the return trip to the hotel.

Wednesday April 25

6:00am-10:00am Breakfast in the Sweetgrass Restaurant

9:00am Hospitality room open.

10:00am General Meeting and Memorial Service.

6:30pm Gather at the banquet room for group photographs.

7:00pm -11:00pm Banquet plated dinner and dancing. (*Casual dress as always.*)

Thursday April 26

6:00am-10:00am Breakfast in the Sweetgrass Restaurant

Have a safe trip home!!!

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

Patriots Point Submarine

For those of us attending the upcoming Charleston reunion it might be the last time we will be able to see, or board, the submarine **USS Clamagore (SS-343)**. According to an article recently published, in the **Historic Naval Ships Association** magazine, the submarine is scheduled to be towed to the east coast of Florida and sunk as a reef.

It was said that the material condition of the Clamagore does not justify the expense required for the WWII vessel to continue to be safe for visitation by the public. An exact date for this action was not given.

Although it will not change the fate of the USS Clamagore, the USS Compton Association will make a \$500 donation to the Patriot's Point Association during our group tour. Our Association also supports Naval Museum ships, throughout the year, by donations to the Tin Can Sailors Museum Ships Fund.

Original Ship's Plaque Mystery

Joe,

Hope all is well with you. Thank you for your recent note.

In the August 2017 Compton Issue, questions were asked how the ship's plaques were saved. The following should shed some light on the issue.

During 1962, the original ship's plaques were replaced on the Compton with plaques of new design. The original design was considered offensive to submariners. Once removed, the plaques were brought to me.

Sometime around 2005, while at a ship's reunion, I became aware of the plaques being the only known salvaged items from the ship. For that reason I gave the quarterdeck plaque consisting of a brass casting mounted on a wood shield to the Compton Association for all to enjoy.

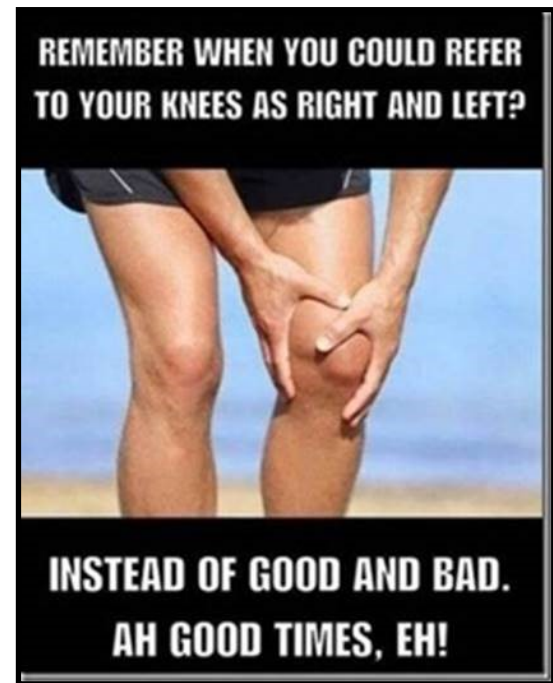
I still have one brass casting and will bring it to the next reunion, for all to see.

Karl Dietsch Lt jg—USS Compton DD705 (early sixties)

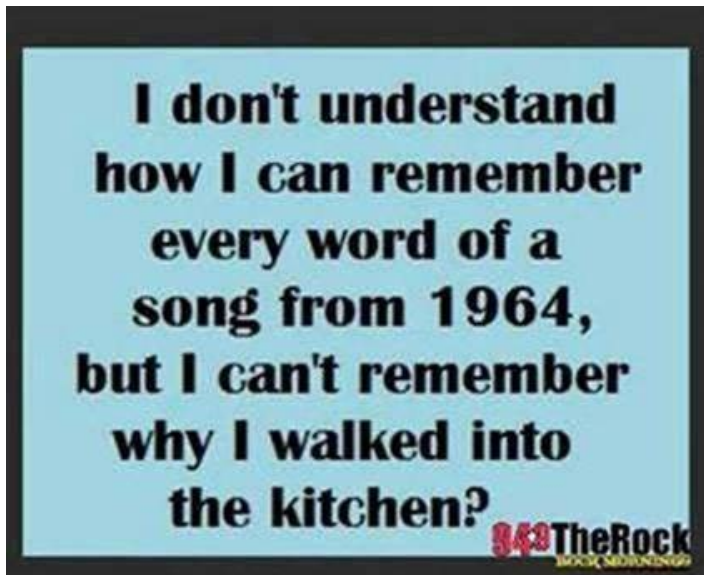
Annual USS Compton Association dues are \$20.00 per year. If you received an envelope with this newsletter the dues are due now or will be due within a short period of time...look for the hand written date on your address label. This is the date when your membership has expired or will soon expire...



What are a couple of Compton Association members doing at West Point?? Actually, they are visiting member Jack O'Neil's son Sean, who is an Instructor at the Point. L-R, Sean O'Neil, Phil Prekel, Jack O'Neil and Bob DiMonte.



**When I was a kid
I wanted to be older...
This shit is not
What I expected!!!**



SPECIAL NOTICE: We are having difficulty in reaching the outside photographers from the (Warwick—Boston) Reunion if you have not received your pictures—please give Joe Napoli that information. Contact info for Joe on page 1 of this Newsletter.

Anthem Veterans Memorial



The Anthem Veterans Memorial, located in **Anthem, Arizona**, is a monument dedicated to honoring the service and sacrifice of the United States armed forces.

Once a year at 11:11 am the sun shines perfectly on this Memorial. **At precisely 11:11 a.m. each Veterans Day (Nov. 11)**, the sun's rays pass through the ellipses of the five Armed Services pillars to form a perfect solar spotlight over a mosaic of The Great Seal of the United States.

The five marble pillars represent the five branches of the United States military. They are staggered in size (from 17 feet to 6 feet) and ordered in accordance with the Department of Defense prescribed precedence, ranging from the United States Army, the United States Marine Corps, the United States Navy, the United States Air Force and the United States Coast Guard.



USS Compton Windbreaker Jackets

At long last we have located a company that will provide USS Compton Windbreaker jackets. The prices of the clothing items are very reasonable because the company, Acme Emblem, will supply them at their cost because we are a Veteran's organization.

The jacket has our embroidered name and ship silhouette. Available in men's sizes XS thru 6XL and ladies XS thru 4XL.

The price will be **\$22.50**. Add \$3.00 for XXL and additional \$3.00 for 3XL+.

Name on right breast: \$10 extra.

Custom embroidery also available.

Shipping charge **\$18.85** on all items on this page

Embroidered USS Compton sweat shirts

Embroidered blue sweat shirts are available for only **\$15.00!** The cost of shipping is actually more than the cost of the clothing item. Add \$2.00 for each additional size over XL. (Ladies sizes also.)

USS Compton Fleece Jackets

The jackets will have the USS Compton name and ship silhouette on the left breast as do the Windbreakers. Ladies sizes also available. Cost **\$25.00** plus shipping. (**\$18.85**)

(silhouette not available for this photo)

Full zipper front and two zippered pockets.

Price for the Fleece jacket is \$25.00 plus shipping.

Add \$2.00 for each size over XL.



**To Order call: Jill Marks
201. 533.8600
(during normal business hours—EST)
Acme Emblem Corp
PO Box 7488
Monroe Twp. NJ 08831**

Charleston Reunion notice:

The Crowne Plaza in Charleston provides a free shuttle to, and from, the airport. Upon your arrival at the airport just call the hotel desk, (843) 744-4422, and a shuttle will be sent to pick you up. Departing arrangements can be made at the front desk.

The Crowne Plaza also provides complimentary shuttle service for a three mile radius of the hotel which also includes the Tanger Outlet Mall and over 30 restaurants. Check at the hotel desk for details.

The NASH shuttle, located across the street from the Crowne Plaza hotel, provides transportation to the Downtown Visitor's Center for \$7 a round trip. Trolley service around the downtown area is free.

Compton Members—Oct 2017 to Dec 2017—who additionally contributed to our association

Neil Franc

Art Reilly

Michael Olson



Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!



"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A VETERAN DIED TODAY."

*Our flag does not fly because the wind moves it;
It flies with the last breath of each soldier/sailor/marine/airman who died to protect it*

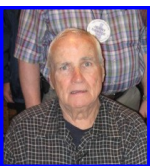
Obituaries: USS Compton DD705



Michael Harlan-Blake: passed October 3, 2017 at age 81. in Exeter, New Hampshire. He was born in Wilmington DE on April 10, 1936. Mike was assigned, on reserve status, to the USS Compton from 1956 to 1958 and then received his diploma from Wesleyan University in 1960. He started his work status with the Philadelphia Budd Company before relocating to the New England area.



Perry Richard "Dick" Royse: passed 6/23/2014 at age 78, in Murfreesboro TN. Dick was the Engineering Officer, on the Compton, from April 1960 to August 1962. Mr. Royse was a "Mustang" rising from enlisted status to full Navy Commander— upon his retirement. He was very competent and well respected by those who knew him. Dick Royse was also a former Compton Association member and attended the 2004 Nashville Reunion.



Francis "Bud" Foley: passed 12/25/2017 at the age of 86 years in Hamilton, New Jersey. Bud along with his brother Ed were part of the original "Founding Fathers" of the "USS Compton Association". Ed along with his wife of 59 years, Anne helped to organize and run many of our past reunions. He was an active member of our organization and a donation in his honor will be made to "Tin Can Sailors".



William E Justice: passed 10/29/2013, at 87 years old in Mill Hall, Pennsylvania. Bill joined the US Navy in 1944 and was a GM3 on the USS Compton. Bill was a Compton Association member for many years. Mr. Justice is listed as a USS Compton, Plank Owner. He was a correction's officer (note his name) for 32 years and a very active member of various veterans organizations.

Fellow shipmates: Our Compton Association lose members each year and sometimes we cannot find out the real reason but, we do not wish to lose any members for not paying their dues. The generosity of Compton members allow us to help other members.

We will send a self-addressed postal card to those over one year past due and just check "keep me on the member list" if you cannot afford to pay your dues, for any reason, then return the card to us.