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The Compton at war



Commissioned November 4 1944
Decommissioned—September 27 1972

The Hero Ship “That would not sink” ...
USS Laffey DD 724—Last Sumner Class Destroyer
Patriots Point—South Carolina



The “Compton Newsletter” is available in color—on our below WEB site
Webmaster, Phil Prekel has posted 37 past newsletters from February 2009
to the present on our below listed Internet Website...



Charleston Reunion Review

Well we did it again!

Another great reunion.

Our Association is still going strong. We had 95 people attend our Charleston reunion. The Crown Plaza Charleston is a first class, four diamond rated, hotel and it showed. The facility was beautiful and everything went well.

Shipmates and guests spent quite a few hours in our Hospitality Room enjoying beverages and snacks. It's great when the crew gets together socializing and telling sea stories.

We had three "first time" shipmates with us and they had an enjoyable time. If you have not been to a reunion you are missing a lot. John Koos also was with us, he is a "Plank," a member of the original crew of the Compton crew. Herb Sellers, another WW2 shipmate attended, as he has for as long as I can remember, Herb went on the Compton about a month after she was commissioned. Herb is known for his dancing and he did not disappoint us at the banquet.

The weather was perfect for our tour. In the morning we toured Charleston stopping at the Citadel Military Academy, after lunch we went to Patriot's Point. Shipmates and guests went aboard the USS Yorktown and, of course, the Sumner destroyer USS Laffey. It brought back many memories as shipmates showed their spouses and guests where they worked and slept when on the Compton.

On the last day of the reunion we had our business meeting and Memorial service at the Crown Plaza hotel. "Doc" Eames did an outstanding job conducting the Memorial service. No seats on our board were contested so the existing board will serve another year.

Later that evening we held our banquet. It was a pleasant affair. We had a nice meal and enjoyed dancing to the music.

Next year we are heading to Tampa Bay Florida, April 26, 27 & 28, Friday thru Sunday, we will hold our reunion at the Crowne Plaza Tampa-Westshore.

Joe Napoli



The Real Dave Scott DK1—68-69
Last reunion picture I misidentified
Dave—He said it was ok as the other guy
had hair...

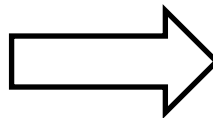
James Johnston SN—1970
with guest Elizabeth Smith



Herb (EM2—1945) and Sandra Sellers
Herb is as close to being a “Plank Owner” as
you can be counted.
He was on the Compton during it’s attack by a
Kamikaze Betty Bomber.

Linda and Mike Olson—IC2 1966-1969
Sitting in the Galley. Mike is debating whether
to break into the IC Room and re-arrange it to
how he remembers the way it was...

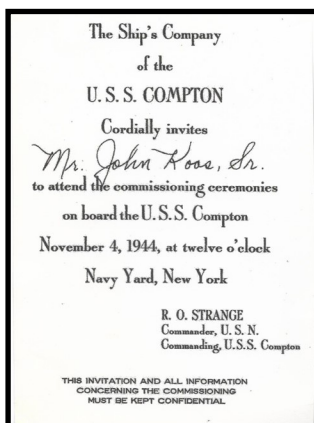
**The Compton Association donated \$500 to
Patriot's Point to honor the
USS Laffey DD 724**
L-R Joe Napoli, Laffey Rep and
Jack Heidecker



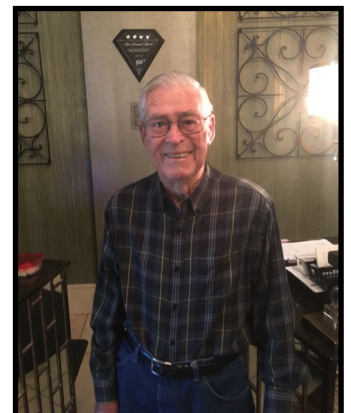
IRON COFFIN—by Boyd Crannell - USS Compton (1958-1960)

I wrote this poem back in 1972, it was for all the sailors who went down with their ships I was wondering what it must have been like for the sailors on the Arizona—who were still alive with no hope. it goes like this.

This ships been hit fore and aft, I can hear the falling of the main mast
The decks are buckling the bulkheads give way, many a sailor is starting to pray.
But here in after steering I set all alone receiving no word on my headset phone.
An explosion forward, and everyone knows the main boiler room has just been blown.
The angle I am at is about forty five I know what's happening this ships going to dive
Screaming and yelling have now past away, the ship opens up and lets in the waves.
But why am I breathing, and why am I dry, my bulkheads are holding I have an air supply.
I hear the ship creaking and straining under stress. As we go to the bottom where this ships going to rest.
The darkness is blacker than I have ever known, and the silence itself could kill you alone.
The air in the compartment is getting thin, for I have been breathing it over and over again.
And where is Thompson, Jackson, and Ross, They were in the boiler room they surly are lost.
The captain, Exec, and OOD must have went down with all the debris.
The stewards, and boatswains and engineman to all departed when the engine room blew, and what of my buddy Jimmy Magee,
The last time together was on shore leave, we toured the towns and visited the ports and took in the sights and a little sport.
And what of my friends who are way back home, (OH GOD) I feel so all alone.
I think of my girl and Mom and Dad, and all of the things I did that were bad.
I think of my church where I seldom went. And now my life is almost spent.
Why is it when a man is at his last that even a straw he will try to grasp.
The only thing I can think of to say, is I only wish I knew how to pray.
And what was it the chaplain said? I know the navy hymn. (Eternal father bound to save, release us from the bounding wave,
Oh hear us when we pray to thee, Eternal father on the sea).
And what's that voice I hear on my phone? Golly maybe I am not all alone.
But what am I thinking I know it's true this voice I am hearing is not one of the crew,"
REMEMBER MY SON WHAT I SAID IS TRUE, AND REMEMBER THE SCRIPTURE, JONAH 2:2"



Plank Owner—John Koos WT3
November 1944 to June 1946
John attended the Charleston Reunion and is in better shape than most of the other attendees.
On the left is a copy of John's official invitation to the Compton's Commissioning Ceremonies...





USS Compton Windbreaker Jackets

The new Compton clothing items made a big hit at the reunion. We now offer another chance to order the custom made articles.

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

The price will be **\$27.50**. Add \$3.00 for XXL and additional \$3.00 for 3XL+. Name on right breast: \$10 extra. Custom embroidery also available. Plus shipping.

Embroidered USS Compton sweat shirts

Embroidered sweat shirts are available for only **\$20.00!** Add \$2.00 for each additional size over XL. Many colors available. Plus shipping.

USS Compton Fleece Jackets

The blue jackets will have the USS Compton name and ship silhouette on the left breast as do the Windbreakers. Other colors also available.

Full zipper front and two zippered pockets. Price for the Fleece jacket is **\$30.00** plus shipping. Add \$2.00 for each size over XL.



To order call **Jill Marks** during normal business hours Eastern Standard time

201-533-8600

Acme Emblem Corp.
PO Box 7488
Monroe Twp., NJ 08831

Captain Michael L Elliott



Mary, Mike and Chuck Elliott



The USS Compton Association proudly salutes Captain Michael L Elliott on his retirement. During our 2007 Jacksonville Reunion, Commander Elliott, then Captain of the USS DOYLE FFG -39, at Mayport Naval Station, arraigned for our Compton membership to tour the DOYLE. That honor was a rare opportunity for non-active naval veterans to be able to access a current ship of war and be hosted by its Captain and crew. His dad—Chuck Elliott is an active Compton Association member. Mike always gave Chuck and his mom Mary special credit for the foundation of his success “Fair Winds” to you Captain Elliott.



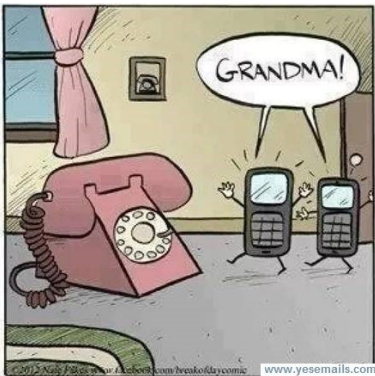
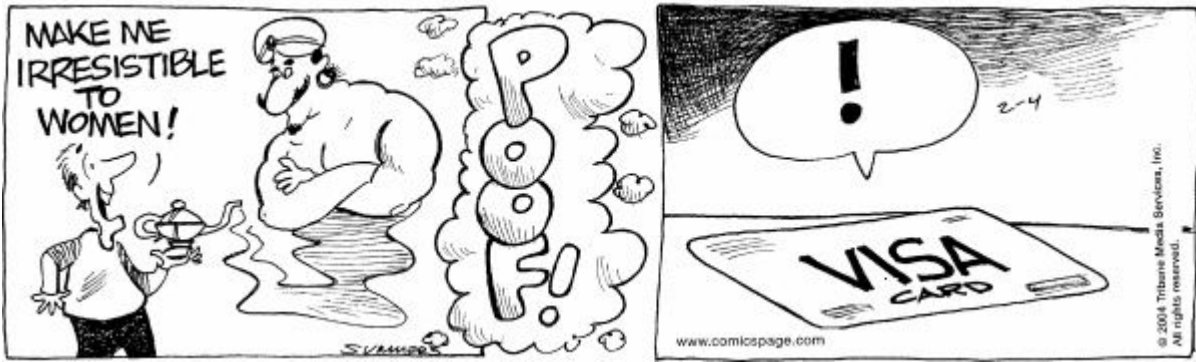
Eileen and Phil Prekel
Where is Bob DiMonte, WCP1
(Wheelchair Pusher 1st Class)??




Mike Taylor
Taking minutes from the Compton meeting.
for future translation into English!!

My wife and I had words, but I didn't get to use mine.

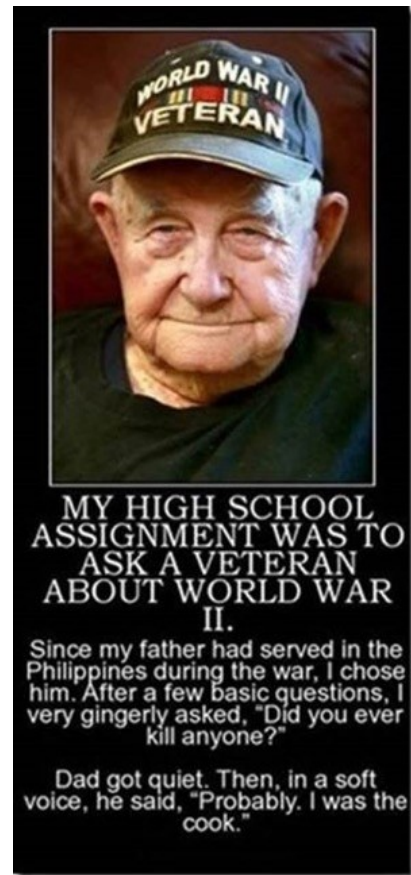
God made man before woman so as to give him time to think of an answer for her first question.



DON'T LIE,
DON'T STEAL,
DON'T CHEAT,
DON'T SELL DRUGS...




**THE GOVERNMENT
HATES COMPETITION**



Irish Craic and Humour Craic O'Doyle

The brain is the most amazing organ. It works 24 hours a day, 365 days a year from birth until you fall in love.



irishcraicandhumour.com

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 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...

Compton Donations—January 1 to March 31: Robert Ceres, Martin Kellner, Charles Mackay, Gerry Pierce, Thomas Lockman, John MacDougall, John Waltz, Earl Clay and Jack O’Neill. Joseph Brielman, Dan Turlay (in honor of his father), and the Fred Link family (in his honor).



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

Obituaries: USS Compton DD705



Robert A Smith GM1—(plank owner) - passed December 28, 2017, at 92 years of age in Lincolnshire, Illinois. He was very proud of the Compton and wore his Compton hat everywhere he went. His proudest navy memory was the fact that the Compton saw the end of WW2 and was one of the first US Navy combat ships to enter Tokyo Bay. A donation to Tin Can Sailors will be made in his memory.



David G Doughty, Jr— LTJG passed December 13, 2017, at 71 years of age in Gloucester MA., He was a proud honors graduate of Baldwin College in Brunswick ME and maintained an active affiliation with his college. Mr. Doughty served on the Compton 1969-1970. He was also an active Compton Association member. A donation to Tin Can Sailors will be made in his honor.



Charles J Derkas—FN (January 1952 to May 1954) passed on April 19, 2018, at 83 years of age. Charles was born January 19, 1935 in Versailles PA. An active bicyclist and very active with the Mon Yough Trail Association. Charles was a US Navy, Korean Conflict veteran and served on the USS Compton. He was also a past Compton Association member.