
USS Compton Organization

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The Compton at war



Commissioned November 4 1944
Decommissioned—September 27 1972

Tampa Reunion—2019

The **Crowne Plaza Tampa-Westshore** will host our event. It is located at 5303 West Kennedy Blvd., in Tampa. The hotel phone number is (813) 287-1050, **reservations (877) 834-3613** for reservations use the Compton block code **UCA**.

The reunion will be a three-day event held on **Friday April 26, Saturday April 27 and Sunday April 28, 2019**. Our standard format will be used; registration on Friday, a tour on Saturday and our memorial service, general meeting and banquet on Sunday.

Our discounted group room rate will available three days prior and after the actual reunion. **The room rate is \$149 a night and breakfast is included each morning.**

Complimentary transportation will be provided to and from the airport and a 3-mile radius of the hotel. The phone number for the 24/7 shuttle service is **(813) 289-1950**.

Breakfast at the Crowne Plaza Tampa

While at the Crowne Plaza, for the Tampa reunion, breakfast, is included in the price of the room.

Breakfast is served from 6:30am to 10:00am in the MEZZO restaurant at the hotel. The breakfast consists of the full buffet selections.

When the buffet bill arrives at the table tell the server to put it on your room tab. The breakfast costs will be removed from your room bill prior to checkout

The “Compton Newsletter” is available in color—on our below **WEB site** Webmaster, Phil Prekel has posted 38 past newsletters from February 2009 to the present on our below listed Internet Website...

TAMPA FL REUNION TOUR

Our tour event will be held on Saturday April 27, 2019 the second day of the Tampa reunion.

We have booked a day long bus tour from the “**Cheers! Events**” production company which includes a riding tour of the Tampa area, included with tour guides. We will leave the Crowne Plaza Hotel at 9:30am.

After that the group will be taken to the University of Tampa where we will then go on a guided interior tour of the beautiful and historic campus buildings. Then it’s on to tour **Historic Ybor City**.

After the morning events we will be driven to the Sarasota area for a fantastic barbeque lunch for shipmates and guests.

The food will be prepared outdoors and dining will be in a nicely decorated, air conditioned, hall.

The trip is being sponsored by shipmate Joe Brielmann who resides in the Sarasota. FL Area.

The barbeque, also provided by Joe, will be at a facility he owns.

Due to Joe Brielmann participation, the cost of the day’s events will be only be **\$60** per person.

Tampa Reunion Registration form

Member’s Name _____

Spouse/guest _____ Number in party _____

Rank/Rate _____ Years aboard _____ to _____

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

(Attach additional names if necessary.)

Banquet Meal Selection: Chicken _____ Beef _____ (**@ \$60 per person**) Includes cheese and crackers and wine at the tables.

Number taking tour _____ (**@\$60 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 April 11.

Ybor City is a historic neighborhood in Tampa, Florida, located just northeast of downtown. It was founded in the 1880s by Vicente Martinez-Ybor and other cigar manufacturers and was populated by thousands of immigrants, mainly from Cuba, Spain, and Italy.

Ybor City has been designated as a National Historic Landmark District, and several structures in the area are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

In 2008, 7th Avenue, the main commercial thoroughfare in Ybor City, was recognized as one of the "10 Great Streets in America" by the American Planning Associations for the millions of cigars it made annually.

Tampa 2019 Reunion Agenda

Friday April 26

12:00 noon Hospitality room, "Coquina", open. Registration. Refreshments all day.

Saturday April 27

6:30am-10:00am Breakfast in the Mezzo restaurant. Hospitality room, "Coquina", open.

9:30am Busses will leave the hotel for the Tampa tour including the University of Tampa and Ybor City.

1:00pm Arrive at Joe Brielmann's facility in Bradenton for a Barbeque.

4:30pm Time approximately—Back at Hotel

Friday April 26

12:00 noon Hospitality room, "Coquina", open. Registration. Refreshments all day.

Sunday April 28

6:30am-10:00am Breakfast in the Mezzo restaurant.

10:00am - noon General Meeting and Memorial Service in the "Lido" room.

6:00pm – 11:00pm Banquet plated dinner and dancing. (Treasure Island East Room)

Monday April 29

6:30am-10:00am Breakfast in the Mezzo Restaurant. Have a safe trip home.

No one has more driving ambition than the teenage boy who wants to buy a car.

U.S.S. COMPTON

DD-705

Welcome all Crewmembers, Families and Guests

Reunion Dinner on Sunday—April 28, 2019

1st Course—Salad:

Classic Caesar Salad with crisp romaine, garlic croutons, and Caesar dressing

2nd Course—Guests to select one (1) of the following entrees:

- Chicken Francaise with lemon beurre blanc sauce*
- Seared Beef Medallions with a mushroom demi glaze*

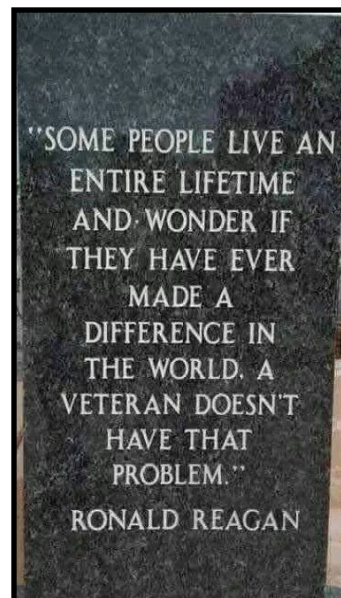
Both Entrees to be Accompanied by:

Truffled Mashed Potatoes and Charbroiled Baby Carrots with Sage Maple Glaze

3rd Course—Dessert:

Cheesecake and Chocolate Cake (alternating by place setting)

Cost: \$60.00, per person and will include wine at your table and a varied cheese selection table





The Evolution of a Compton sailor—Joe Nowakowski SH3—May 1960 to March 1963

United States WW2, Secret Naval Base “Ulithi”

In March 1945, 15 battleships, 29 carriers, 23 cruisers, 106 destroyers, and a train of oilers and supply ships sailed from "a Pacific base." What was this base? The mightiest force of naval Power ever assembled must have required a tremendous supporting establishment. Ulithi, the biggest and most active naval base in the world was indeed tremendous but it was unknown. Few civilians had heard of it at all. By the time security released the name, the remarkable base of Ulithi was a ghost. The war had moved on to the Japanese homeland, and the press was not printing ancient history about Ulithi.

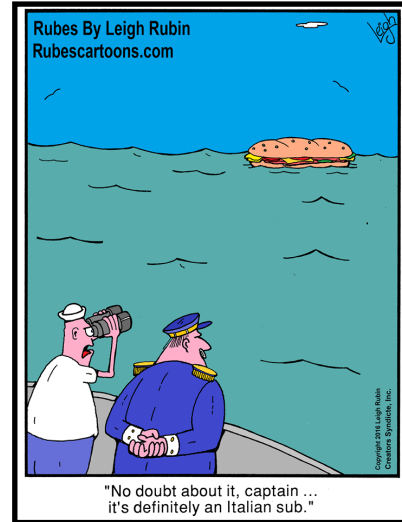
The US kept this place unknown to the citizens of the US. It was 1944 and the pictures were not available during the war. This is quite a story!!

This armada of ships and airplanes was poised for the invasion of Japan that never happened, because President Truman authorized the dropping of “A” bombs at Nagasaki and Hiroshima that resulted in the Japanese surrender.

Just think of the American lives that would have been lost had this invasion occurred. Be thankful that we had a President with the courage to make the call. Sadly most Americans today know nothing about this and the sacrifices made by those before us.

If any of you folks had fathers, grandfathers or uncles in the Navy during World War II, they may well have been involved in this operation, given the tremendous number of the ships and personnel involved.

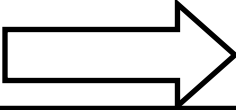
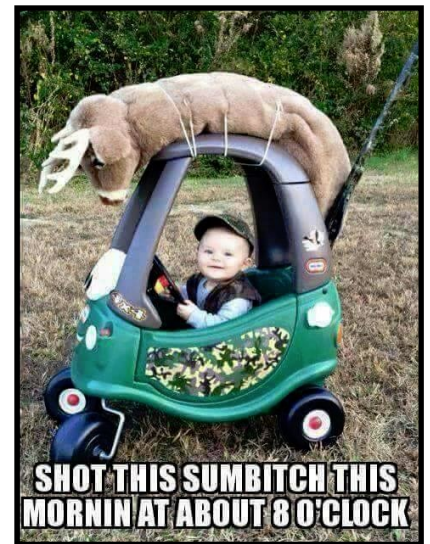
Internet Goodies



**MY WIFE JUST STOPPED
AND SAID,
"YOU WEREN'T EVEN
LISTENING WERE YOU?"

I THOUGHT...
"THAT'S PRETTY WEIRD WAY
TO START A CONVERSATION."**

Based on deductions
this is a baby picture
of Fred Summerville
because
Phil Prekel
doesn't swear!!!

Larry Farnham MM3 1958—1961, passed on December 30, 2018 in Brownfield, Maine. Larry was a loyal Compton Association member and he and Millie rarely missed an Association reunion. He will be interred at the veterans cemetery in Exeter, Rhode Island. A donation in Larry's honor will be made to "Tin Can Sailors". Larry and Millie's picture at our Charleston reunion can be viewed in our last newsletter on page #7.



Frederick McDermott Jr SN 1952—1954, passed on December 5, 2018 in Brockton, MA. After leaving the US Navy, he obtained a doctorate in adult education and developed an educational system known as "Jims and Jabs" and traveled the world for the military and other large companies teaching this system. Fredrick was a former Compton Association member and attended a few of the earlier reunions.

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...

Richard Olsen Collection GMG3 1961-65



Richard at work



Ready for Liberty



Must be Sunday



The only trouble you could find in Gitmo were the mine fields

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
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570 450-5545

Compton Donations—October 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018
Neil Franc, Mary Foglino (in honor of Hank), Daniel Greenless, Boyd Crannell
Al Haley, Jack Henderson



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

**Obituaries:
 USS Compton DD705**



Bruce Bielefelt, unknown rate/rank, passed February 16, 2006 in Nevada City, CA. He is listed as serving in the navy in 1958 to 1961 and being on the USS Compton and USS Daly. After his naval service he received a BS in Accounting and eventually retired from Nevada County CA as an auditor.



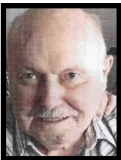
James P Davin Sr. GMG3, USS Compton 1961-1963, passed August 12, 2017 in Philadelphia PA. He was 75 years of age. James was an active member of the Compton Association and a \$50 donation, in his name, will be made to the Tin Can Sailors Association.



Dr Robert Balderson, Ltjg, USS Compton, Division Officer, circa early 1950's, he passed on October 24, 2018 in Edina Minnesota, at 89 years of age. He received his Medical Degree from Temple University in 1958. Doc continued his career as a Pathologist in Grand Rapids, Minnesota.



John Weingartner, PF1, 1952-1956. a proud and active member of the Compton Association, passed December 28, 2017 in Orange CA. He attended many Compton reunions and was most proud of our ship by displaying his California license plate, as shown to the right. Tin Can Sailors will receive a \$50.00 donation in his memory.



Don Willis Powel, BT, Forward Fireroom, early 1950's, passed October 16, 2018, in Lakeland Florida, at 84 years of age. Don worked in Michigan at "Super Tool" and then at Mid-State Machinery in Lakeland. Don was a NASCAR fan at enjoyed meeting new people at the races.



Robert Searles, RM3, 1961, passed November 29, 2018 in the Derby, CT area. Robert was 77 years of age born in Derby CT on November 14, 1941. His naval career show he served on the USS Compton and the USS Albert T Harris, DE 447. A avid golfer and devoted to the UConn women's basketball team and the Boston Red Sox.



Arthur Schwab, BT2, 1954-1958, passed December 13, 2018 in Albion, Maine. He was an active Compton Association member and a donation in Arthur's memory will be made to Tin Can sailors.