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The Compton at war



Commissioned November 4 1944  
Decommissioned—September 27 1972

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All Newsletter, pictures and  
articles should be sent to:

**Jack Heidecker**  
“Compton Newsletter”

**The Compton Corner**

As we approach the end of this long, crazy year, I’m sure none of us will be saddened by it’s passing. It has, in many ways, changed our lives and way of thinking. We all have suffered and were pained by this pandemic. Hopefully 2021 will bring sunshine and a ray of hope and normalcy.

We finally have all our contracts in place and can look forward to our 2020/2021 reunion in Saratoga Springs, NY. In this issue of the newsletter, are the reunion registration form, Hotel information, the rate will be \$149, and will be honored one day pre/post reunion, meal selection and reunion agenda. I urge all of you to make your hotel registration and complete the forms as soon as possible. I am looking forward to sharing the first week in May, with all of you, it has been too long since we have been together.

As the Holidays approach, we should reflect on how Blessed we have been. We live in the greatest Country on this planet. With the wild fires in the west, Hurricanes in the south, Covid-19, and a Presidential election, we have endured and prospered.

Finally, I want to wish each of you, a Happy Holiday Season and Merry Christmas from my family to yours. Stay safe.

May the Good Lord, Bless each of you and may He continue to watch over the Men and Women who risk everything to protect us and this great nation.

Fraternally,

Bob DiMonte



**The “Compton Newsletter” is available in color—on our below WEB site Webmaster, Phil Prekel has posted 47 past newsletters from February 2009 to the present on our below listed Internet Website...**

**WEB SITE: [www.usscompton705.com](http://www.usscompton705.com)**

USS COMPTON DD-705

May 3-5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Annual Reunion Registration Form

Embassy Suites Saratoga Springs, New York  
86 Congress St., Saratoga, NY 12866  
(518) 290-9090

The Compton rate will be honored 1 day-Pre/post reunion

Members name Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse/Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Use back for additional guests \_\_\_\_\_

Meal selection: Filet Mignon \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Breast \_\_\_\_\_ Halibut \_\_\_\_\_

@\$65.00 per person Total \_\_\_\_\_

Number taking Tour (Lunch Included) \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_

@\$90.00 per person

Total amount \_\_\_\_\_

Cut Off date is April 3th, 2021.

Please mail check and form to: **USS Compton Assn., P.O. Box 6621  
Monroe TWP., NJ, 08831-6621**

Grand Ballroom 7:00PM

Choose one of the following:

1. Grilled Filet Mignon with  
Wild Mushroom Demi Glaze, Onion Risotto, Roasted Asparagus
2. Pan Seared Halibut with  
Butter Pecan Apple Sauce, Steamed Rice, Broccoli
3. Wellington Farms Chicken Breast  
Saltimbocca

All Entries come with Dinner Rolls & Butter, House Garden Salad with Balsamic Dressing, Freshly Brewed Regular and Decaf Coffee, Hot water with Teas, Juices and Sodas.

Lemon Meringue Pie with Blueberry Sauce

# USS COMPTON –DD 705

2021 Reunion Agenda  
Saratoga Springs, New York

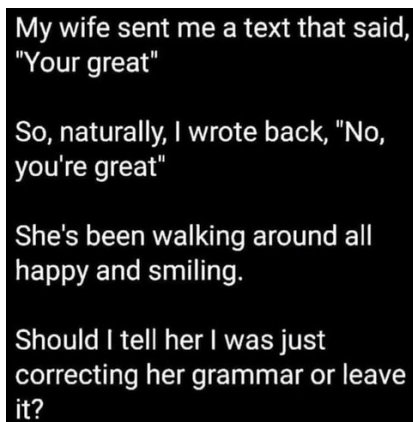
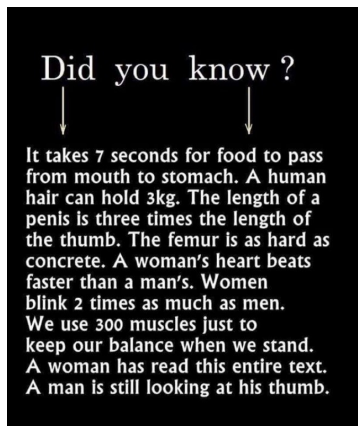
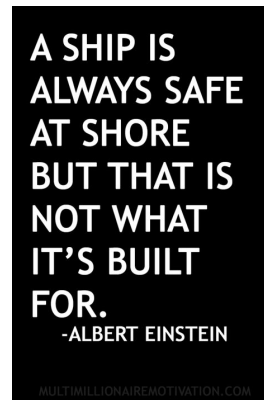
May 3 -5, 2021

<b>Monday</b>	1200	Hospitality room opens	Big Red & Peerless Rms
<b>Tuesday</b>	0815	Meet in the Lobby	
	0830	Bus departs for Saratoga Battlefield	
	1115	Departs for Dutch Apple Cruise and lunch on the Hudson River	
	1200-2PM	History cruise tour of the River and Albany , NY	
	2:15 -4PM	General tour of Albany and {time permitting}, photo stop at NY State Capital building. Depart for Hotel	
	TBA	Hospitality room opens	
<b>Wednesday</b>	0900	Hospitality room opens	Big Red & Peerless Rms
	1000	Business meeting	State Seal Ballroom
	6-7PM	Cocktail Hr	Skidmore room
		Note: We can utilize the Hotels complementary bar until 730PM, then cash bar	
	7PM	Banquet	Grand Ballroom
		Invocation and presentation of the “Colors”	
		Music, Karaoke and Dancing	
<b>Thursday</b>		Breakfast and depart for home	
		Be Safe and Be Healthy—See you next year	

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**

## Internet Goodies



# The Snipes Lament

THE MEN WHO SAIL BELOW

NOW EACH OF US FROM TIME TO TIME, HAS GAZED UPON THE SEA, AND WATCHED THE WARSHIPS PULLING OUT, TO KEEP THEIR COUNTRY FREE. AND MOST OF US HAVE READ A BOOK; OR HEARD A LUSTY TALE, ABOUT THE MEN WHO SAIL THESE SHIPS; THROUGH LIGHTING, WIND AND HAIL.

BUT THERE'S A PLACE WITHIN EACH SHIP, THAT LEGEND FAILS TO TELL IT'S DOWN BELOW THE WATERLINE, IT TAKES A LIVING TOLL A HEATED METAL LIVING HELL THAT SAILORS CALL "THE HOLE."

IT HOUSES ENGINES RUN BY STEAM, THAT MAKES THE SHAFTS GO ROUND. A PLACE OF FIRE AND NOISE AND HEAT, THAT BEATS YOUR SPIRITS DOWN. WHERE BOILERS ARE THE HELLISH HEART, WITH BLOOD OF ANGRY STEAM; THESE MOLDED GODS WITHOUT REMORSE, LIKE NIGHTMARES IN A DREAM.

THE ROARING FIRES POSE A THREAT LIKE LIVING LIFE IN DOUBT, FOR AT ANY MINUTE WITHOUT SCORN, COULD ESCAPE AND CRUSH YOU OUT. WHERE TURBINES SCREAM LIKE TORTURED SOULS, ALONE AND LOST IN HELL, WITH ORDERS FROM SOMEWHERE ABOVE, THEY ANSWER EVERY BELL.

THE MEN WHO KEEP THE FIRES LIT, AND MAKE THE ENGINES RUN, ARE STRANGERS TO THE WORLD OF LIGHT, AND RARELY SEE THE SUN. THEY HAVE NO TIME FOR MAN OR GOD, NO TOLERANCE FOR FEAR. THEIR ASPECT PAYS NO LIVING THING THE TRIBUTE OF A TEAR.

THERE'S LITTLE THAT MEN CAN DO, THAT THESE MEN HAVE NOT DONE, BENEATH THE DECKS, DEEP IN THE HOLE, TO MAKE THE ENGINES RUN. AND EVERY HOUR OF EVERY DAY, THEY KEEP THEIR WATCH IN HELL, FOR IF THE FIRES EVER FAIL, THEIR SHIP'S A USELESS SHELL.

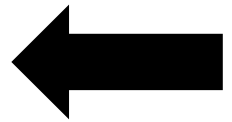
WHEN SHIPS CONVERGE TO HAVE A WAR UPON AN ANGRY SEA, THE MEN BELOW JUST GRIMLY SMILE AT WHAT THEIR FATE MIGHT BE. THEY'RE LOCKED BELOW, LIKE MEN 'FORE DOOMED, WHO HEAR NO BATTLE CRY, IT'S WELL ASSUMED THAT IF THEY'RE HIT THE MEN BELOW WILL DIE.

FOR EVERY DAY'S A WAR DOWN THERE, WHEN GAUGES ALL READ RED. TWELVE HUNDRED POUNDS OF HEATED STEAM, CAN KILL YOU MIGHTY DEAD. SO IF YOU EVER WRITE THEIR SONS, OR TRY TO TELL THEIR TALE, THE VERY WORDS SHOULD MAKE YOU HEAR A FIRED FURNACE WAIL.

THESE "MEN OF STEEL" THE PUBLIC NEVER GETS TO KNOW. SO LITTLE'S HEARD ABOUT THE PLACE, THAT SAILORS CALL "THE HOLE". BUT I CAN SING ABOUT THIS PLACE, AND TRY TO MAKE YOU SEE, THE HARDENED LIFE OF MEN DOWN THERE, 'CAUSE ONE OF THEM IS ME.

I'VE SEEN THESE SWEAT SOAKED HEROS FIGHT, IN SUPERHEATED AIR. TO KEEP THEIR SHIP ALIVE AND RIGHT, THOUGH NO ONE KNOWS THEY'RE THERE. AND THUS THEY'LL FIGHT FOR AGES ON, 'TIL STEAMSHIPS SAIL NO MORE, AMID THE BOILER'S MIGHTY HEAT AND TURBINE'S HELLISH ROAR.

SO WHEN YOU SEE A SHIP PULL OUT TO MEET A WARSHIP FOE. REMEMBER FAINTLY, IF YOU CAN, "THE MEN WHO SAIL BELOW".



From a fellow "snipe"  
Charles MacKay MM2  
1954-1956

**Compton Donations—July 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020**  
Ed Capozziello, Bob Haines,



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



***Obituaries: USS Compton DD705***



**Joe Kearns—Signalman 3rd class.** May 23, 1942—May 8, 2020. From Cheisea MA and formerly from Roslindale MA. Obituary information has listed his naval service time as being during the late 1960's and early 1970's. It is also noted during this time, of active service, he was on the USS Compton. Rest in Peace, Joe. Thank You for your service.



**John Cupp BT3—1962-1966,** born passed July 26, 2020 at 77 years, of age, in Kettering Ohio. John was born June 10, 1943 in Knoxville, Tennessee. He was a loyal Compton member who attended many reunions and enjoyed assisting the Chaplin during our meetings. Mr. Cupp also served in the army and retired from the United States Air Force. To complete his full life cycle, John then retired from General Motors. Our special donation was made to Tin Can Sailors.



**Captain Sullivan W "Sully" Reed,** 88 years of age passed in Rockport, Maine on July 28, 2020. He served his country with 31 years of service and is listed as the Commanding Officer on the USS Compton, out of Boston 1971-1972. A highlight of Sully's career, was standing on the Compton bridge with his father while bringing the ship into his hometown of Owls Head, Maine to celebrate the Town's fifty year anniversary. Rest in Peace Captain Sully.



**Paul J Wardrobe Sr, IC3,** 72 years of age, passed in Tewksbury, MA on March 19, 2020. Paul was born in Medford on April 22, 1947. He served on the Compton from April 1968 until October 1969. He retired as a supervisor at the jet engine plant of GE in Lynn MA. Paul was an active USS Compton Association member and a \$50.00 donation was made to Tin Can Sailors.

**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...