

USS SHIELDS DD-596 Reunion Association

Newsletter January 2007

Jene P. Cain
Editor

This Newsletter Sent to 1,102 Former Crew Members, Families & Guests

2007 All Era Reunion Scheduled for September 9-13, 2007 in Branson, Missouri

The location will be the Grand Plaza Hotel



The Grand Plaza Hotel is located in the heart of Branson just off the world famous Highway 76 Country Boulevard. It is within walking distance to some of Branson's biggest stars, as well as some of the greatest outlet shopping.

The hotel has 200 newly remodeled beautiful rooms overlooking the breathtaking Ozark Mountains. The hotel offers fine cuisine in its gourmet restaurant and a luxurious all season pool and spa.

Ed Velasquez, Vice President, Reunion Coordinator, working with the Board, has arranged a complete package for the reunion. Ed hit the ground running after San Diego and has done a terrific job setting up for Branson. Please see the enclosed registration and information sheets for the details. There has been a change for this event. **Gatherings Plus** will be handling the hotel reservations and registrations for all activities. You will only be dealing with one company for this reunion.

Branson is a Remarkable Destination

Located in Southwest Missouri, it offers world-class entertainment for the whole family in the natural Ozark Mountains. There are 49 magnificent live performance theaters, 3 pristine lakes, 10 championship golf courses, an award-winning theme park, dozens of attractions and museums, shopping galore and a full range of dining options.

Association Dues for 2007 Due

Enclosed is the dues form for 2007. Please complete it and enclose your check. Your dues support the printing and postage for newsletters and they cover the expenses of locating shipmates and maintaining the master contact list. The estimated cost for this mail out is \$1,200 for printing and postage. Dues paying members enable us to send newsletters to all our shipmates, whether dues have been paid or not.

Your dues do not support reunion activities; these activities are self-sustaining. All board members and friends of the board volunteer; no one receives compensation in the Association. Please see the additional story on mail outs in this newsletter.

Father & Son Served on the Shields

Miles R. Finley Jr., CDR, 50-52 and Donald B. Finley, QM3, 70-71, his son, served aboard the USS Shields 20 years apart.

Eldest Surviving Officer and Enlisted

Jim Dorough reported that in his research he found that Don W. Gardner, LTJG, 44-45, born on 04-14-1912 and Clement J. Komoroski, S1, 45, born 10-1919, to be the eldest surviving shipmates of record.

Jim based this on the furnished date of births reported to him. Please let him know of surviving shipmate(s) who are older so we can update the record.



Recently Passed Shipmates

We received notification since publishing our last newsletter, of the following former shipmate's passing:

Bittel, Elmer, COX, 44-46

See photo and note below

Nuttall, James B., S2 (GM), 45

Pinotti, William P., SN, 51

Schiff, Donald R., BT3, 52-54

Vanliew, Vernon B., SM3, 45



Elmer Bittel, pictured at the San Diego reunion, was a regular at our gatherings. This photo shows him holding the memorial plaque at the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial September 26, 2006. He passed away shortly after the reunion.

Contact Information

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Note: Ed Velasquez and Bob Lamphere handle the ship's store. If you need to have a dues form re-mailed contact Jim Durough.

Inside Look at Preparing a Mail Out



Photo Courtesy Misty Sharman

Jim and Evelyn Durough Preparing the September 2006 Mail Out

This newsletter is being mailed to 1105 former crewmembers, families and guests. The Association mail out, which is scheduled four times a year, is a sizeable responsibility. Jim Durough co-ordinates this activity. I work closely with him and the other Board Members to gather timely articles in preparation to write the newsletter.

Once the newsletter is completed, Jim and Evelyn put it all together. An average mail out has 4,444 sheets of paper or about 9 packs or reams of paper to fold and stuff into 1110 envelopes. This mail out will have about 8,888 sheets or close to 18 reams of paper. Hand folding the mailing saves about \$50.00. Eliminating stapling saves \$111.00.

Originals of the newsletter, President's letter and all other sheets go to the printer to be copied. Envelopes, stamps and mail labels are purchased. Next, over 1100 labels have to be printed and placed on the envelopes along with the correct postage. Each envelope is stamped by hand, with Bob Carl's return address, to enable the post office to return the envelopes with incorrect addresses.

Finally the mail out is put into each envelope, which is then sealed. The entire mail out is delivered to the post office. Jim estimates the it takes an average of 40 man-hours from beginning to end for he and Evelyn to complete the process.

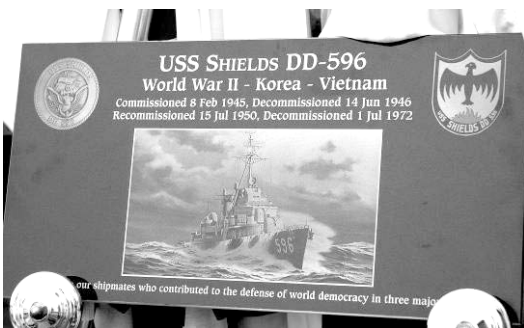
Shields Plaques at Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial

There are two USS Shields DD-596 plaques at the Memorial site. The first being the WWII and Korea plaque, located at wall FF facing west, Row 1 plaque 3. The second being WWII, Korea and Vietnam, located at wall FF facing west, row 4 plaque 10.

If you visit the site in San Diego (La Jolla) the above information should help you find both plaques.



WWII and Korea Plaque



WWII, Korea & Vietnam Plaque



Shipmates Photographing the WWII - Korea Plaque

Flag Drill for Ensigns



To become a midshipman it is, of course, necessary to take a color perception test. I have always known that my color perception was not the best and was worried lest the test prevent me from becoming a midshipman. I did however pass, and four years later was commissioned.

I reported aboard the Shields in the summer of 1957 while she was in Yokosuka, Japan. I could not wait to get underway and was very pleased, about a week later, to find myself on the bridge as Junior Officer of the Deck. It was a warm, clear, afternoon with several officers on the bridge in addition to the Officer of the Deck (OOD). As the Shields was approaching the Commodore's flag ship from several miles away, the OOD turned to me and said: "Mr. Murphy, what is that flag on the Flagship". I wondered why I, rather than the signalman was being asked but responded with an "Aye, Aye, Sir. I'll find out." I raised my binoculars to my eyes, painfully aware that even if I my poor color perception did not prevent identifying the colors, that I did not yet know my signal flags.

I strained but could not identify the flag and decided to guess. "I'm not sure, Sir." I reported to the OOD. I decided to guess. "Is it Alpha?" I asked. "No, Mr. Murphy." the OOD replied somewhat impatiently. By now the signalman, all of whom remained silent, were smiling at my discomfort. "Is it Bravo, I ventured". No. Mr. Murphy." the OOD quickly responded. "That flag you see is the American Flag!" Everyone on the bridge had a good laugh. That day I learned that signal flags fly from the yard arms and only the American Flag flies from the jack staff. I never forgot that. However I never did learn to read signal flags, a skill I thankfully did not need at my general quarters station in main engine control.

David R. Murphy
LTJG 1957-1960

Editors Note: Thank you David for a great sea story. Please submit your sea stories to be considered for publication in the newsletter. Send your stories to my e-mail address noted on the contact list.

USS Shields DESRON Patches



Photos of these three patches were submitted by Ed Velasquez. They represent the three Destroyer Squadrons the Shields served under during his time aboard. DESRON 27 was between 1964 – 1972 while Shields was a reserve training ship. Ed commented that these are very rare and he felt fortunate to find them.

For more information you can visit the Tin Can Sailors website, www.destroyers.org, to learn about ship's patches and much more. If you have other patches, the Association would welcome a photo of the patch for the archives and possible publication in the newsletter. Please include dates and information about the patch(s) and submit to Jim Dorough or myself.

Keep Your Contact Information Up to Date

Please get in touch with Jim Dorough if you're mailing information, phone number or e-mail address changes. With every mail out the Association receives a number of returned envelopes due to old addresses. We make every effort to re-mail those returned pieces and that costs additional postage. Keeping your information up to date helps reduce our mailing costs.

Shields Reserve Service

The Shields was a reserve trainer twice, from 1947 to 1950 and from 1964 to 1972, prior to decommission, and transfer to the Brazilian Navy. All reservists who served aboard are welcomed at our reunions.

USS Shields DD-596 Service Ribbons

Here is the list of ribbons awarded to the Shields:

- Navy Occupation Service Medal
- China Service Medal
- Pacific Theatre Medal
- Philippine Liberation Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Korean Presidential Unit Citation
- Korean Service Medal

Refueling in Rough Seas



USS SHIELDS DD-596 REUNION ASSOCIATION 2007 SHIPS STORE ORDER FORM

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

<u>Item #</u>		<u>Price Each</u>
1925	Natural Denim Shirt long sleeve with USS Shields Crest	\$25.00
1850	Stonewashed Blue Denim Shirt long sleeve with Destroyer Logo	\$25.00
2350	White Polo Shirt with 2 Color Collar/Cuff and USS Shields Crest	\$25.00
1425	White Polo Shirt short sleeve with Indigo Collar and Destroyer Logo	\$18.00
0800	Gray Cap with USS Shields Crest	\$15.00
0801	Navy blue Cap with Destroyer Logo	\$15.00
0705	Medallion and case, 60 year commemorative commissioning	\$15.00
0901	DVD of the USS SHIELDS DD-596 Still Pictures	\$10.00
0250	Ships Patch (Free shipping for this item only)	\$ 8.00

Item #	Size	Qty	Price Each	Total
* SHIPPING	& HANDLING			

Check # _____
Check Date _____

Order Total:

* Note: Shipping & handling charges is \$4.00 for each item up to a maximum of \$12.00 for the entire order.

Note: Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.



Item no. 0801



Item no. 1925



Item no 1850



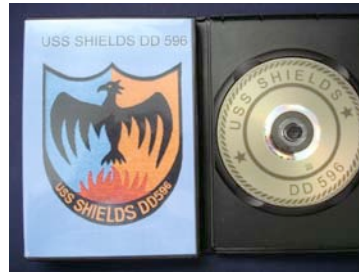
Item no. 2350



Item no. 1425



Item no. 0250



Item no. 0901

Picture Not Available

Item no. 0800



Item no. 1705 front & back



Item no. 1705 front



Item no. 1705 back

Make checks payable to:

USS SHIELDS DD-596 REUNION ASSOCIATION (your check will be your receipt)

Mail entire order form with your check to:

USS SHIELDS DD-596 REUNION ASSOCIATION
% ROBERT N. CARL, SECRETARY
6987 LAZY SUNSET COURT
LAS VEGAS, NV 89156

GATHERINGS PLUS

Dear USS SHIELDS DD-596 Reunion Association Member,

We are pleased to announce that your 2007 ALL ERA reunion will be in Branson, MO. September 9-13, 2007. We are working with Ed Velasquez your reunion coordinator and know the itinerary that's planned will be enjoyable for everyone.

Quality accommodations, entertainment, food and fun is in store for all attendees as you take in Branson. Exciting group activities have been planned. Come ready to enjoy yourself. We also encourage family members to attend the reunion with you.

There will be plenty of time allowed for what is most important to any military reunion which is to visit with each other. There is also additional time available for you to experience Branson's many shows. Just call our office for information about ticketing for additional attractions. Also, your reunion rate will apply three nights prior and three nights after the reunion dates based on hotel availability.

Don't delay!! We are anxious to see you in Branson. Come enjoy the sights and sounds that make Branson one of the top destinations in our country today. **YOU MAY ALSO CHOOSE A PARTIAL PACKAGE IF NECESSARY.** Just call us and we will be happy to assist you with a personalized package to meet your needs. We also offer an "interest free" payment plan for your convenience.

We look forward to counting you in our roll call for Branson!!

Sincerely,

Pam Brown

P.S. If you are flying to the reunion the nearest airport is Springfield/Branson Regional in Springfield, Mo. American, United, US Air, Delta and Northwest are airlines that fly into that airport. For airport shuttle information call 1-800-841-2313 at least two weeks prior to arrival. All major rental car agencies also are available at the airport.





For a listing of Branson shows go to: www.bransonshows.com

GATHERINGS PLUS
P.O. BOX 1023
BRANSON WEST, MO. 65737
Office Phone: 417-338-4048
Email: pamb@interlinc.net

USS SHIELDS DD-596

Branson, Missouri All Era Reunion

September 9-13, 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p>Check in at GRAND PLAZA HOTEL</p>  <p>12:00 p.m. Hospitality Room Open...Light Snacks Provided (peanuts, pretzels, popcorn, soft drinks, coffee, tea, and water)</p> <p>5:30 p.m. “WELCOME ABOARD” Reception (meatballs, chicken, shrimp cocktail, cheese, crackers, veggie tray, chips, dip, desserts, soft drinks, coffee, tea and water)</p>	<p>Deluxe Continental Breakfast</p> <p>10:00 a.m. THE LES BROWN “Band of Renown” Morning Show</p>  <p>Shopping Shuttle Available</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Dinner at CHARLIE’S STEAK, RIBS AND ALE (family style smoked meats, salad, baked potato, baked beans, dessert, rolls, coffee/tea)</p>  <p>8:00 p.m. LOST IN THE 50’S SHOW With THE PLATTERS</p>	<p>Deluxe Continental Breakfast</p> <p>9:30 a.m. THE BUCK TRENT Morning Show</p>  <p>Noon: LUNCH Provided</p> <p>3:00 p.m. MEMORIAL SERVICE & THE SHOWBOAT BRANSON BELLE Dinner, Cruise and Show On Beautiful Table Rock Lake</p>	<p>Deluxe Continental Breakfast</p> <p>Morning Free 10:00 a. m. Business Meeting</p> <p>Hospitality Room Open All Day</p> <p>Afternoon Free</p> <p>7:00 p.m. FINAL EVENING BANQUET (combo plate with prime rib/parmesan chicken, salad, potato, rolls, dessert, drinks)</p>	<p>Deluxe Continental Breakfast</p> <p>Depart</p> <hr/> <p>HOTEL PRICING: \$84.00 per room per night including tax, breakfast and hospitality room</p> <p>ACTIVITY PACKAGE: \$261.00 per person INCLUDES: Welcome Packet Welcome Reception Charlie’s Dinner Les Brown Show Lost in the 50’s & The Platter’s Lunch in Hospitality Room Buck Trent Show Shopping Shuttle Showboat Branson Belle Dinner, Show And Cruise Banquet with Entertainment Transportation to Group Activities All Taxes and Gratuities Reunion Website</p>