

USS SHIELDS DD-596 All Eras Reunion Association

Newsletter October 2008

Jene Cain, Editor – Jim Dorough, Assistant Editor

This Newsletter Sent to 1079 Former Crew Members, Families & Guests

USS SHIELDS DD-596 All Eras Reunion Association, Copyright © 2002

www.dd596.com

Reunion Dates are November 2nd thru the 5th 2008 – Reservation Cut Off Date for Special Room Rate is October 9, 2008

This is the first All Eras Reunion Association located in the eastern part of the U.S. The location is beautiful and the planned activities are sure to be a hit with attendees.

Message from Your Reunion Coordinator

Another year has gone by and we will be joining our shipmates and guests for another reunion at the Perdido Beach Resort in November. I am encouraging those that have not yet signed up to do so before our cut off date of October 9, 2008. After this date, the reduced rate will not be in effect and the prevailing rates will apply. We still have 17 rooms available at the reduced rate. SO SIGNUP NOW and join us for another fun filled week of tours, camaraderie and good food at a Gulf Coast Paradise.

For details and signup forms visit our website at www.dd596.com click on reunions and/or upcoming reunions or call me at 303-979-4114 anytime of the day or evening.

Ed Velasquez, V.P. & Reunion Coordinator

Note: The reunion moves around from the East, Midwest, West, North and South in the U.S., to try to accommodate everyone at some point in time. This is the southern reunion so please come on out and support your reunion association.

•USS Shields — Fletcher Class Destroyer



- Displacement: 2050 tons
- Length: 376'6"
- Beam: 39'4"
- Draft: 17'9"
- Speed: 35 knots
- Armament: 5 5"/38, 2x5 21" torpedo tubes
- Complement: 329
- High-pressure super-heated boilers, geared turbines with twin screws,

60,000 h.p.

- Built at Puget Sound Navy Yard
- Commissioned 1945

Shields' Latter Years & Final Disposition

On November 1963, Shields ceased operations as an active fleet unit and was assigned as a Naval Reserve Training ship, part of the Reserve Destroyer Squadron 27.

With her full-time crew cut more than 50%, she spent the next 8 years working with the Development and Training Command to maintain the combat efficiency of reservists. After a survey of Shields in March 1972, it was determined that the cost of her modernization would be prohibitive and that she was only of marginal value to the Navy without it. Consequently, decommissioned on 1 July 1972, the Brazilian Navy purchased the DD-596 and renamed her the Maranhão. The Maranhão was stricken and scrapped in 1990.

Shields was awarded the Korean Presidential Unit Citation and three battle stars for service in the Korean Conflict.

This information came from the www.dd596.com website

Note: The Shields was always training reservists from the very beginning. That is why our reserve shipmates are an important part of our reunion group.

Salute

Section 594 of the National Defense Authorization Act, was signed into law as Public Law 110-181 on Jan. 28, 2008. It allows veterans out of uniform to salute the flag.

"All persons present in uniform should render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute."

Editor's Notes

We published this issue of the newsletter using the Arial typeface for body copy. Brad Mills, IC3 58-60, suggested this change, as he felt it would be easier to read. I received varying opinions from Board members therefore, we decided to publish one issue and ask for opinions. Please send your comments to me (Jene); my contact information is listed on page 2.

Board Members Contact Info.

Jack Blann, President

2925 Harrison Dr
Chino Valley, AZ 86323-5569
Ph: 928-636-2087
E-mail: jblann7@msn.com

Ed Velasquez, V. P., & Reunion Coordinator

6648 S Ammons Ct
Littleton, CO 80123-3509
Ph: 303-979-4114
E-mail: etvela5@aol.com

Bob Carl, Secretary

6987 Lazy Sunset Ct
Las Vegas, NV 89156-7206
Ph: 702-438-9826
E-mail: bobcarl@cox.net

Roger Brotherton, Treasurer

7750 W 4th St #105
Reno NV 89523-8915
Ph: 775-336-7896
E-mail: rbroth41@aol.com

Harvey Fine, Dir., Bartender, Historian & Memorabilia Keeper

121 Parkview Cir
Mountain Home, AR 72653-3743
Phone: 870-425-8618
E-mail: hm1fine@yahoo.com

Jim Kennington, Director, Reunion Tours

1915 Price Rd
Indian Trail, NC 28079-7514
Phone: 704-882-4636
E-mail: bkennington1@carolina.rr.com

Friends to the Board Contact Info.

Jene Cain, Newsletter Editor

13171 Galleria Pl
Apple Valley, MN 55124-6113
Phone: 952-432-8746
E-mail: jenecain@pclink.com

Jim Dorough, Asst. Newsletter Editor, Shields Locator & Contact List Keeper

5470 S Shades Crest Rd
Bessemer, AL 35022-4183
Ph 205-425-9197
E-mail: jimandevelyn@aol.com

Bill Ragan, Ship's Store

1642 Rambling Rd
Simi Valley, CA 93065-5737
Phone: 805-527-2196
E-mail: raganje@aol.com

Eldest Living Shipmates

Below is a list prepared by Jim Dorough of the 10 eldest living officers and enlisted shipmates. If Jim missed you, please contact him with your birth date. **(Newest in boldface type)**

Officers

Schweizer, Jack R., CDR, 49-50, 8-27-1915
McDaniel, George T., LCDR, 45, 5-21-1916
Hoblitzell, Paul C., LTJG, 44-45, 11-24-1916
Jepsen, Edward P., LT, 50, 3-17-1917
Teeters, David R., LT, 49-50, 4-11-1918
Metze, George M., LCDR, 52-54, 9-15-1918
Robinson, Jack W., LTJG, 51-52, 10-28-1918
Goodell, Trenor F., ENS, 44-45, 12-29-1918
Fredell, Erling W., LT, 49, 12-1918
Winner, Hal M., LCDR, 51-52, 2-20-1919

Enlisted

Gold, Sol W., SN, 44-45, 10-2-1910
Sulmonetti, Henry, S1, 45, 7-27-1915
Hafner, Ben L., SC3, 44-45, 1-1917
Sabasta, Tony, MM2, 45, 3-20-1917
Trusty, Clinton N., SK1, 57-58, 1-1918
Dabney, Richard E., STM1, 45-46, 8-18-1918
Criscione, Henry, S2, 45, 8-21-1919
Komoroski, Clement J., S1, 45, 10-2-1919
Cromer, Harold E., WT1, 44-45, 2-15-1920
Reifsnnyder, Robert A., FC3, 44-45, 5-21-1920



Recently Passed Shipmates

Burr, William O., SN, 52-55
Cassette, Fred K., EN3, 52-54
Hoysak, Kenneth E., MM3, 66
Manos, Gust B., BM2, 44-46
Moore, Charles D., SN, 55-57
Weidman, John H., LTJG, 45 – **Our Eldest Officer Has Passed**
Wright, William D., MMFN, 51

Opting Out of Receiving the Newsletter

The Reunion Associations intention is to send the mail out to all shipmates regardless of dues paid, time served or duration served on the Shields. If you would rather not receive the newsletter, you may opt out by notifying Jim Dorough via e-mail, snail mail or a phone call. Jim's contact information is located on the left. You may opt in again at anytime.

Shields Korean Shipmates Reunion September 18-20

The Korean War Group of Shields Shipmates is planning a reunion as follows: September 18-20, 2008, At the Holiday Inn- Select, 4728 Constitution Ave., Baton Rouge, LA, Phone 225-925-2244. Ask for Ms. Leslie Alleman, **AND MENTION THE SHIELDS** when making reservations at the hotel. Contact Clarence Fabacher at 337-230-4985 to make your hospitality suite reservations. The hospitality suite charge is \$25/person. There will be no banquet or tours, just good old friendship with finger food and drinks in the hospitality suite.



New Found Shipmates

Hines, Hubert O., SK2, 65-66

Shipmates Registered to Attend the Reunion in November

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Blann, Jack | Hughey, Carl |
| Brisco, Robert | Kennaugh, John |
| Cain, Jene | Kennington, Jimmy |
| Carl, Robert | Meeds, Albert |
| Diedrich, Charles | Murphy, David |
| Dorough, James | Nelson, Ed |
| Ellis, William | Pulliam, Donald |
| Fine, Harvey | Purdy, William |
| Fintak, James | Ragan, Bill |
| Gayle, Charles | Sewell, James |
| Hensley, Richard | Sperandio, Joseph |
| | Underhill, Sam |

2008 Dues are Due

Your \$25.00 annual dues support the printing and postage for newsletters and they cover the expenses of locating shipmates and maintaining the master contact list.

Please complete the dues form included with the January 2008 mail out. Contact Ed or Jim if you need another copy. Do not forget to note your birth date, include your check and drop it in the mail to Bob Carl, Secretary, and his address is on the form.

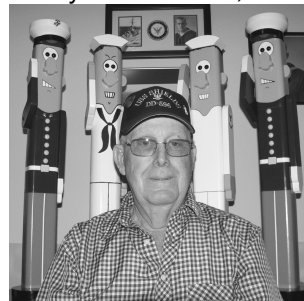
Your dues do not support reunion activities; these activities are self-sustaining. All board members and friends of the board volunteer; no one receives compensation in the Association.

Navy Terms: Cumshaw = This is the international sea-going term for petty graft or secret commissions.

March of the Wooden Soldiers

By Jerry Alan Foster

Hanging around the Army Navy Surplus Store in Simi Valley, I managed to meet a "salty dog" by the name of John "Bill" Ragan. I immediately knew he was Navy, as he proudly wore his USS Shields DD-596 Navy Ball Cap. If you are not familiar with Navy vessels, it was a Fletcher Class Destroyer commonly, in Navy lingo, referred to as a "Tin Can." She was decommissioned July 1st, 1972. Better known by his shipmates as Bill, or Petty Officer Third Class with a rating of Interior Communications, he served in The United States Navy from 1956-1960, aboard the USS Shields. It was not his Navy Cap, however, that attracted my attention. This California native and Simi Valley resident had, cradled in his arms, one of many



"military post people" that he builds and paints painstakingly, each by hand. Ragan was in the surplus store purchasing miniature rank insignias for his latest military work of art.

A very skilled and master craftsman, Ragan can build just about anything. For that matter, his wife Judy is a very talented quilt maker. His Navy wife actually was the person directly involved with Bill's craft. She purchased a set of blue prints hoping her husband would show an interest and build one. What started as a project, later turned into a passion. Now a retired heating and air-conditioning and refrigerator repairman, Ragan has made it his mission to stay in contact with as many of his shipmates as possible. Very involved with the reunion of crew members from the USS Shields, he will make these military figures for reunion board members, as a way of saying thank you, or for raffles, as door prizes, to help raise money for these costly reunions; but, more so for special shipmates during Ragan's four year tour aboard his ship. His latest project, however, is for an 18 year old Marine now serving in Iraq. Bill said he has known this young warrior ever since he was 18 months old.

A time line cannot be placed on these crafty pieces, as Ragan works on each piece, at his own pace. Other than the cost of materials, a price also can't be placed on each wooden figure. Many folks from the military, both active and retired approach Bill wanting one of these "military post people." No matter what offer is made, he will not fabricate one, unless you served on his ship or are near and dear to his heart.

Published with Permission, of & Photo by Jerry Alan Foster
This article appeared in the Ventura County Star 07-28-08

USS SHIELDS DD-596 ALL ERAS REUNION ASSOCIATION
C/O ROBERT N. CARL (SECRETARY)
6987 LAZY SUNSET CT
LAS VEGAS, NV 89156-7206

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Important Notes Regarding Mail Delivery

Check your address on the newsletter and if not 100% correct, including Apartment, Condo, Trailer, Space number and the zip code + 4 digits, please notify Jim as many letters are being returned "undeliverable." Jim has done an extensive review of the mail list to minimize these errors, however we also need your help to correct errors in your information.

If you move do not forget to notify Jim of your new address, phone number and any change in your E-mail address. Put a change of address in with the Post Office. The change of address stays on file with the post office for about 18 months.

If you are going to be away and not collecting your mail for 10 days or more, please notify the post office to hold your mail. Otherwise, their instructions are to collect all mail 10 days old and return it to the sender marked undeliverable. We have had several returned newsletters because mail was not collected.

Raffle Items Needed for Upcoming Reunion

The raffle is one of the highlights at our reunion, and raises funds for the Association. If you are planning to join us consider bringing something for the raffle. The items do not have to be Navy or Shields related, however those are special and appreciated.

The last raffle included a bottle of homemade salsa, courtesy of Jim Smith. The quilts made by Judy Ragan are a big hit and her husband John has supplied his now famous wooden sailors. So join the fun and bring a contribution. It will be prized and acknowledged.

Navy Terms: Gun Turrets

Revolving turrets were invented twenty years before the Civil War, by T.R. Timby of New York when he was only nineteen years of age. Used today on war tanks and aircraft as well as surface vessels, the turret has proved its worth in each succeeding war since its inception.