



DESRON 30 News

Reunion Association Newsletter



Winter 2013

Vol. 1 No. 2

Director's Winter Letter

By Dennis Holt & Dick Myers

Each year it gets better. What a great reunion. We are sorry that more of you did not make it. Events are covered below, but the shows were fabulous. We especially appreciated the Branson Belle showboat for their help in our memorial service. It was the finest memorial service we have ever held.

Membership for the year held up well but we need more dues. We voted to continue the \$10.00 per year dues for the organization, and we hope that as many who can afford it will send it in. A copy of the 2014 dues notice is attached to this newsletter

We have had heavy losses as reflected in the memorial list shown later in this newsletter. But we have hopes that the Caperton will eventually merge with our efforts to help increase our size. As reported before, the remaining three ships (Clarence K, Bronson, Smalley and Dashiell) are still holding active reunions on their own.

So next year we will be in Washington, DC, followed in 2015 by Baton Rouge, LA, and the New York Hudson River Valley area in 2016. Plan your calendars with these in mind.

In Memoriam

By Dick Myers

As of 12/15/13, we have received the following information on shipmates who are deceased. Our deepest sympathies are extended to the families of our deceased members.

LAST NAME	FIRST	MIDDLE	RANK
U.S.S. Cotten			
Fielding	John		
U.S.S. Gatling			
Olund	Annie	(wife)	
Trexler	Kathleen	(wife)	
Van Gunay	Marie	(associate member)	
U.S.S. Dortch			
Olsen	Ed		

Also, the following deceased members of the reunion association were honored at a ceremony at the Branson Belle.

LAST NAME	FIRST	MIDDLE	RANK
U.S.S. Gatling			
Apple, Jr.	John	J.	LTJG
Balich	Peter	J.	SK2
Biglen	James	E.	SN
Drogitis	Harry		F1 (EM)
Flake	Thomas	L.	RM2
Hagood	Emmett	G.	MM3
Hettel	Thomas	J.	QM1
Hohenstein	Charles	S.	F1c
Hylas	Michael	P.	MM3
Keeling	Richard	E.	SO3
Lacey	Kenneth	L.	SN
Mansfield	George	W.	S1
Mc Cormack	Charles	J.	GM3
Messineo	Frank	P.	SK3
Provencio	Raul	A.	EMP3
Quinn	Willie		BT3
Skidgell	Millard		SF3
Storey	Donald	E.	ENS
Stormberg	Eugene	F.	YN3
Swensen	Leland	L.	SK3
Westfall	James	P.	FC3
Guantanamo Bay Accident – 10/01/51			
Barton	Marion	L.	SN
Gesualdi	Anthony		MMFN
La Point	Gerald	W.	DK3
Towery	Johnny	B.	SA
Wright	George	E.	SA
Wright	Thomas	R.	BMG3
U.S.S. Dortch			
Cote	Duane	F.	SN
Giordano	George		FN
LaLone	Jack		BMC
Mahan	Jeanne	(Wife of Ed Mahan)	RM2)
Newman	John		ENS
Sempre	Stan		IC2

LAST NAME	FIRST	MIDDLE	RANK
Wulf	Lawrence		GM3
U.S.S. Daly			
Dolny	Clem		
Drake	John		
Driscoll	Lee		
U.S.S. Cotten			
Baird	Wallace	R.	TM1
Caldarone Jr.	Lawrence	A.	S2c
Dennis	Dorris	B.	FN
Dibling	Robert	W.	LTJG
Dzienius	Alphonse	R.	MM1c
Gertz	Marvin	W.	FC3
Hafele	Richard		SN
Holthausen, Jr.	Carl	F.	ENS
Langlais	Chester	C.	BMSN
Marzola Sr.	Anthony		CS2
Matousch	John	H.	MML2
Pennington Jr.	Rollie		
Sanderson	William	J.	GMSN
Stein	Richard	H.	SM3c
Stevens	William	W.	S1c
Tacy	Ralph	L.	SoM2c
Terpay	John	M.	F3c
Trahan	Senna		SKD2c
Vanderhorst	Richard	H.	RDM3/C
Waters	Jack	H.	
White	Odo	R.	
Wolfe	Thomas	W.	SN
Wood	Richard	F.	BT3

Treasurer's Report

By Dick Myers

The DESRON 30 checking account has \$1,012.44, and all 2013 reunion bills have been paid. At the membership meeting a list of past year income and expenses was presented. It was recommended, and the members approved, that yearly dues be maintained at \$10.00 per member (widows are not charged).

This past year, in addition to dues, we have had some nice contributions from members which have helped to maintain our finances. Since our largest expense is in hard copies of this newsletter, Dick requests that all members give him an e-mail address, if possible. We will continue to use the USPS mail for all other members.

It is requested that members from all ships continue to send in their dues and update their

contact data. A copy of the 2014 dues sheet is enclosed with this newsletter.

DESRON 30 Annual Meeting Minutes

By John Bielot

The meeting was called to order on September 21, 2013, by Dick Myers at 9:00 AM. All present said the Pledge of Allegiance. Dick then asked the WWII members to rise. Present were:

- Dan Budd
- Travis Henry

Dick indicated that the meeting minutes for last year's meeting were published in the newsletter and distributed to the members. He asked if there were any changes or comments regarding the published minutes; there were none.

Dick then asked the Treasurer to rise and present the report. The balance was \$1,716. The group lost \$393 for the year (meaning that we spent \$393 more than what was collected in dues).

\$3,925.00	Income from Dues & Contributions
-\$4,318.92	Expenses
	Postage
	Website Maintenance
-\$1,296	Fall Newsletter
-\$2,400	Summer Newsletter & Roster

Approximately 2/3 of the members of the group does not have e-mail, so we have hard copies made and pay postage to mail them.

Dick then raised a question to the members present – do we wish to continue to mail a copy of the roster every year? Discussion occurred. Questions were raised regarding the number of changes made year to year (very few), and the fact that the on-line version of the member roster available on the Internet web site is maintained and is accurate.

A motion was made to mail the roster every 3 years instead of annually, meaning that the next roster would be mailed in 2016. Additional discussion took place. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

A suggestion was made to encourage members to receive the mailings via e-mail or to check the roster on the DESRON 30 website <http://www.desron30.org>, since the website version is the most up to date. A motion was made and seconded to pass the Treasurer's report; the motion passed.

Moving on we now discussed the site for the 2014 reunion – Washington, D.C. The hotel will be:

Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport
2200 Centreville Rd
Herndon, VA 20170
Phone: (703) 471-6700
Website: <http://www.crowneplaza.com/>

The dates for the reunion are September 17-20, 2014. At registration, you can select a room rate with or without food:

\$89/night with no food
\$109/night with breakfast buffet

The Crowne Plaza offers complimentary shuttle service to/from the airport. There are a significant number of historical attractions in the Washington, DC, area including the National Mall, Gettysburg, and Arlington National Cemetery. The hotel offers complimentary parking for guests. Discussion then occurred regarding a reunion site for 2015. Sites nominated included:

Baton Rouge, LA
Savanna, GA
Las Vegas, NV
Hudson Valley, NY

A motion was made to close the nominations and seconded. The motion passed. Two votes were then taken:

16 - Baton Rouge, LA
10 - Savannah, GA
1 - Las Vegas, NV
10 - Hudson Valley, NY

Baton Rouge, LA, will be the site for 2015. A vote was then taken to determine the site for the 2015 reunion from the top 2 remaining vote getters:

6 - Savannah, GA
16 - Hudson Valley, NY

Hudson Valley, NY, will be the site for 2016.

Election of Directors. A motion was made to keep the same slate of directors. The motion was seconded. Reminder - only active members can vote. The vote passed unanimously.

A motion was made to end the meeting. The motion was seconded.

Sunshine Corner

By Jean Killian

If you know of any DESRON 30 member/spouse who is ill or recuperating, please contact Jean Killian and we'll get a card out to them.

Branson Reunion

By Nancy Bielot

This year the DESRON 30's annual reunion was held September 18-22, 2013, at the Grand Plaza Hotel in Branson, MO. (Some of you from the Cotten may recall attending a reunion in Branson at this hotel back in 2005.) Special thanks to Jodie of Gatherings Plus for making sure everything went off without a hitch.

Check in/registration for the 38 attendees started off the reunion. Thanks to the Uratos for organizing a group of 26 people to see Patsy Cline on Wednesday night at the Hot Hits Theater! Nicely done, guys. (The gal who played Patsy is a relative of Cecil B. Demille.)

Thursday morning 37 people boarded mini-buses to be taken to the Clay Cooper Theatre for the Clay Cooper Show. (We won't mention that Dick Myers almost got on the wrong bus going to the show.) For those of you who are unaware, Branson is a very family friendly town, and they love honoring folks who have served in the military. Clay mentioned the DESRON 30 reunion group during his show, as well as congratulations to Dennis and Faith Holt for celebrating their 32nd wedding anniversary. During the show, many songs were performed, including songs by Glen Campbell, Keith Urban, Conway Twitty, The Blues Brothers, Michael Jackson, Shirley Temple, the Oak Ridge Boys, Sonny and Cher, and many, many more. Clay's wife and son were part of the cast, and the show was well liked by those who attended. Following the show, we were escorted upstairs for lunch. Lunch was catered by Montana Mikes (restaurant), and included cream of broccoli soup, ½ turkey sandwich on whole wheat, potato salad, and apple crisp. Yum, yum!

Thursday afternoon was free for folks to explore the area (there's always shopping), or to reminisce with fellow attendees.

Thursday night 32 people boarded mini-buses for the Legends in Concert show at the American Bandstand Theater. Dinner in the VIP area prior to the show included tossed garden salad, grilled chicken breast, red potato wedges, roast beef with gravy, vegetable medley, warm dinner roll, and a light, fluffy chocolate cake with whipped cream, a cherry, and a chocolate sauce. During dinner Johnny Cash and a young Elvis

impersonator greeted folks and chatted. The show was fantastic! We saw and heard young Elvis, Whitney Houston, the Blues Brothers, Buddy Holly, Johnny Cash, and concert Elvis. Young Elvis won the 2013 Best Elvis at a competition in Memphis, while concert Elvis won the same competition in 2009! Young Elvis also played the part of Buddy Holly – definitely a talented 30 year old. During the intermission, our group was recognized. At the end of the show, all the performers joined on stage for the finale.

Friday morning 37 people boarded the mini-buses for a area guided tour and lunch at Old Downtown Branson. (Or as Clay Cooper mentioned in his show: on the bus, off the bus.) Our driver took us down the strip and gave us some history about Branson. There are 31 theaters in Branson, with about 65 shows at any given time. The first show was the Baldknobbers, and it was held by Branson Landing. The first show on the strip was the Presleys. In 1983 Roy Clark was the first star to put his name on a theater. Box Car Willie was the first full-time performer in Branson, starting in 1985. Branson was named after Reuben Branson, who was a school teacher, mayor and postmaster.

Our next stop was the College of the Ozarks (www.cofo.edu) in Pt. Lookout, MO, which was founded in 1906 by a Presbyterian minister. Each mini-bus was given a student tour guide to tell us about the college; our guides were Sarah and Arielle. Every student works 15 hours/week to pay for their tuition. The college has its own fire department, zip code, power plant, and many other things. It is approximately a 1,000 acre campus. On the campus is the Ralph Foster Museum, which houses the original Beverly Hillbillies car. The college's claim to fame is their homemade fruitcake on the campus. They make 30,000-40,000 fruitcakes a year, and 50,000 jams and jellies a year. We stopped at the chapel, which we found was built by students. Back on the mini-buses, Mike Wanamaker and Bob Pruitt each won a fruitcake that was made on campus. Then off to the Keeter Center to view the Vietnam display, have some homemade ice cream, and view the Veterans Grove and Flag Plaza.

Onto Old Branson for some free time for lunch, shopping, visiting the flea market, and listening to local singers who were performing under a tent. Then back to the hotel for a brief respite, before boarding the mini-buses to the Branson Belle Showboat. On the way, we had a quick tour of Table Rock Dam and trout hatchery. Did you know that between 800,000-900,000 trout

are released per year from the hatchery? That's a LOT of trout! Next stop: Branson Belle Showboat.

This year our Memorial Service was held on the grounds of the Branson Belle Showboat. "Miss Belle" led the service by singing the Star Spangled Banner, and leading everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Next the Navy hymn was played. Miss Belle thanked all the veterans in attendance for their service. Dick Myers introduced Richard Delph of the Gatling, who led the group in prayer. The names of our departed shipmates (see *In Memoriam*, page 1) were then read for each ship by: Casper Winkler, Bob Smithson, Richard Delph, and Dennis Holt for the U.S.S. Gatling, including members lost at Guantanamo Bay in 1951; Dan Budd for the U.S.S. Dortch; Mike Wanamaker for the U.S.S. Daly; and Dick Myers for the U.S.S. Cotten. Betty King of the Cotten rang the bell after each shipmates' name was read. Amazing Grace was the played, followed by taps. At that point, the group was "dismissed"... for a little shopping and then to board the Branson Belle Showboat.

Dinner consisted of Caesar salad, a biscuit, chicken, beef, red skinned mashed potatoes, pea pods and julienned carrots, and a frozen lemon torte with a caramel sauce. Christopher James (www.funnyhypermagic.com) was the emcee for the evening, and he recognized the Destroyer Squadron group. During dinner a short video on the making of the showboat was shown on the big screen (did you know the showboat was christened on April 13, 1995?), and The Rockin' Dockers (five piece band) provided dinner music. Janice Martin played the violin and piano, and sang; she is an amazing performer. Toward the end of the show, Janice asked all veterans to stand and be recognized by the audience. The show ended with a very stirring rendition of "God Bless the USA."

According to one of the bus drivers, May and September are the best months to visit Branson. He felt our organizers did a fantastic job. The bus driver also mentioned that Christmas time in Branson is cold but a special time of the year; if you get an opportunity to go back to Branson in December, it's highly recommended.

Saturday morning was the men's business meeting. (See *DESRON 30 Annual Meeting Minutes* on page 2 for more information.) The afternoon was free, and Angelo Urato organized a group of approximately 25 people to go to the Branson Scenic Railway in downtown Old Branson. This was a 40-mile round trip ride through the Ozark foothills. The train departed from the Branson Depot, which is a historic depot (circa 1906). Once aboard, you could sit in a dome car,

dining car, or even coach seating aboard vintage train cars from the 40's and 50's.

Group photos were taken in the Lobby of the hotel, and then our evening banquet was held at the hotel on the ninth floor. Dick Myers led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Richard Delph offered a prayer. At that time, a few announcements were made by Dick (see **Upcoming Reunions** on page 5). Next Dennis Holt read a poem for POWs MIA, and a "table for one" was set at the banquet. Dick then mentioned that the Executive Board wanted to make a \$200 donation to *Tin Can Sailor*, who donated some of the gifts that were on the tables. Those in attendance approved the donation. The 50/50 winners were then announced: \$32 to Bill Kinney, and \$48 to Sheila Thornton. The raffles were run by Jodie of Gatherings Plus, Dick and Dennis. Winners of the raffle items were: Michael Urato, Angelo Urato, Betty King, Dennis Holt, Faith Holt, Ann Budd, Georgene Smithson, John Urato, Bob Pruitt, Mike Wanamaker, Eileen Mrozinski, Peter Panza, Bob Smithson, Nancy Bielot, Casper Winkler, John Yeater, Joel Stanley, George Zuban, John Bielot, Sandy Pruitt, and Ed Thornton. Thanks very much to all those who donated prizes for the raffles. Dinner consisted of tossed salad, warm rolls, chicken, steak, roasted red potatoes, a vegetable medley, and cheesecake.

Jodie of Gatherings Plus introduced our entertainment for the evening, Georgina Holiday, who was named the two time female vocalist of the year in Branson. Currently Georgina has a Facebook page (Georgina Holiday), and she expects her website to be up and running in about six weeks. Georgina sang songs from the 40's and 50's, including songs from Buddy Holiday, Hank Williams, and Patsy Cline. The evening ended with Georgina thanking the veterans for their service and sacrifice, and she led everyone in the singing of "God Bless America."

The final prize of the evening was a CD from Clay Cooper, as well as a CD from Georgina, and they were won by Betty King.

Special recognition goes to Larry Letford, Machinist Mate 2c: this was his first reunion with the Desron 30. (Larry lives in St. Louis.)

So ended this year's reunion, with more memories to carry us through for another year. We look forward to seeing you next year at the Crowne Plaza in Washington, DC. The Crowne Plaza is located at Dulles airport, and the reunion will be held September 17-21, 2014.

Reunion Attendees

By Dick Myers

Thanks to all who attended this year's reunion in Branson, MO. We're glad you came, and hope to see you next year in Washington, DC.

U.S.S. Cotten:

Bielot, John and Nancy
Kenney, Bill and Lois
King, Betty
Myers, Dick and Betty
Panza, Peter
Thornton, Edward and Sheila
Urato, John, Michael and Angelo
Yeater, John and Annie Blair

U.S.S. Daly

Henry, Travis and Dorothy
Pruitt, Bob and Sandy
Stanley, Joel
Wanamaker, Mike
Zuban, George

U.S.S. Dortch

Budd, Dan and Ann
Mrozinski, Thomas, Karen, and Eileen

U.S.S. Gatling

Aliferakis, Josie
Delph, Richard and Phyllis
Holt, Dennis and Faith
Samson, James and Karen
Smithson, Robert and Georgene
Winkler, Casper and Marlene

Upcoming Reunions

By Dick Myers & Nancy Bielot

Please mark your calendars and join us at our future reunions.

In 2014 we'll be in Washington, DC, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at Dulles airport. There is a new rail station at the airport that will take you downtown.

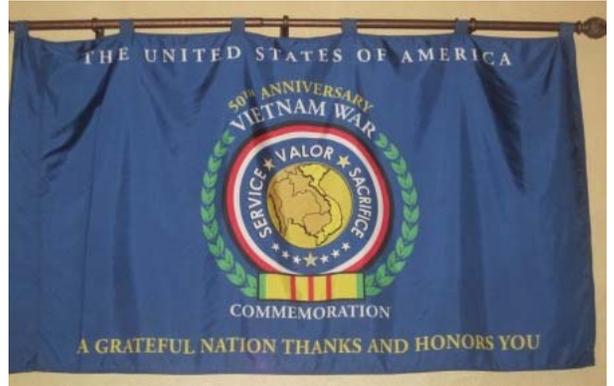
In 2015 we are slated to go to Baton Rouge, LA. Dennis Holt is organizing this.

Looking even further ahead, in 2016 we are looking at Hudson Valley, NY. The Uratos are organizing this.

It is a great opportunity to renew acquaintances, reminisce, and see a different part of the country.



DESTROYER SQUADRON 30
BRANSON, MISSOURI - SEPTEMBER 21, 2013



2014 DUES REQUEST

AND MEMBER INFORMATION UPDATE

Make checks payable to:
DESRON 30 ASSOCIATION INC.

Please mail the completed Dues Request and payment to:
Richard Myers - 428 Lockwood Terrace - Decatur, GA 30030

**IF YOU ARE A WIDOW OR YOU HAVE ALREADY SUBMITTED YOUR 2014 DUES,
PLEASE DISREGARD THIS REQUEST.**

PLEASE RETURN FORM WITH ANY CHANGES TO THE ROSTER.



PLEASE CHECK HERE FOR ANY CHANGES
TO THE ROSTER AND SHOW CHANGE BELOW

\$10.00

Name _____ Spouse _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell / Alternate Phone _____ E-mail _____

SHIP SERVED ON AND DATES (Check one)

U.S.S Caperton (DD-650) _____ U.S.S. Cotten (DD-669) _____ U.S.S. Daly (DD-519) _____

U.S.S. Dortch (DD-670) _____ U.S.S. Gatling (DD-671) _____

Dates Served Aboard Ship _____

Rank / Rate Aboard Ship (Optional) _____

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Or - sign onto website at <http://desron30.org> and request

If you no longer wish to receive the DESRON 30 postal mailings, please check here

FEEL FREE TO MAKE ANY COMMENTS BELOW OR ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET

Remarks -
