



DESRON 30 News

Reunion Association Newsletter



Summer 2015

Vol. 3 No. 1

Director's Summer Letter

By Dennis Holt

Summer is approaching as this is written with a reminder and an invitation to join us for the DESRON 30 Reunion in September. It's a mere 16 weeks away. Now is an excellent time to book your hotel reservation.

With all due respect, I'm hoping and praying none of our shipmates and their families have suffered any repercussions by the deadly and devastating storms which have taken place in the past month.

Those of you who attended the Tucson reunion in 2011 and went on the U of A Steward Observatory Mirror Lab tour will be interested to know one of the mirrors we witnessed being polished has finally shipped to Chile's Atacama Desert at Carnegie's Las Campanas Observatory. The scheduled operational date is 2019.

So, start your planning to attend the reunion and we'll see you in September.

Director's Letter Summer 2015

By Dick Myers

We look forward to walking the deck of a Fletcher again. I hope you all will try to make it to Baton Rouge this September where we will go aboard the USS Kidd.

Of course, as usual, we have lost some members and we regret them all but we especially regret the ones who were regular attendees. You may notice that no roster is attached as we voted in the last reunion to only provide it every three years. If you want to get a current roster, go on line at www.desron.org and use your ship name as ID and use a password of "8tincans." Even if you do not have a computer, you can get help at a library to see the latest roster and old pictures, etc.

Financially, our membership has continued to support the \$10.00 dues and we should be able to continue at that level. A Treasurer's Report will be made at the meeting after reunion expenses but my projection is that we will have a balance of \$2,000.00.

In Memoriam

By Dennis Holt & Dick Myers

As of May 31, 2015, 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
USS Cotten			
Burdick	David	G.	
Slusher	Carl	F.	FC3
Humphries	John		Engineman 2 nd Class
Redman	Eugene	G.	
Wassam	Cora		Wife of Bill Wassam
USS Gatling			
Keene	C.	Richard	LCDR
Sugg	Bobby		FN
Johnson	Theodore	Roy	LT
Foss	Robert	E.	COX

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.

What to do in Baton Rouge?

By Nancy Bielot

Here is some information to help you in planning your trip to our 2015 reunion in Baton Rouge, LA.

This year's reunion will be held September 20-24 at the Embassy Suites, 4914 Constitution Avenue, Baton Rouge, LA (for further details on the hotel:

<http://embassysuites3.hilton.com/en/hotels/louisiana/embassy-suites-baton-rouge-BTRCSES/index.html>

We received a special rate of \$129.00, plus taxes, which is good for two days prior to the reunion, and two days after the reunion. (Note: there are no RV hook-ups at the hotel, but there is

free parking.) To book your room at the Embassy Suites, **contact the hotel directly** by calling: 1-800-362-2779 and mention the Group ID: **DESRON 30 Military Reunion – Group Code D3R**.

Optional planned tours include the following:

Tour #1: Cajun Pride Swamp Tour and the National WWII Museum in New Orleans. (Lunch is included at the WWII Museum.) In the Cajun Pride Swamp Tour, you will be taken back to the early days of Louisiana bayou and swamp explorations (<http://www.cajunprideswamptours.com/>). You will experience the inhabitants of our swamp as well as flora-the sweet smell of our wild hibiscus rose mallow and marsh mallow plants. The National WWII Museum (<http://nationalww2museum.org/>) contains exhibits such as the history of the invasion of Normandy and the war in the Pacific.

Tour #2: Tour of the LSU Rural Life Museum and the Nottoway Plantation. The LSU Rural Life Plantation is a recreation of an 1800s plantation (<http://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/rurallife/>); it is dedicated to the preservation and exhibition of materials of the culture of 18th and 19th century rural Louisiana. The Nottoway Plantation was completed in 1859, survived the Civil War, and is the largest remaining antebellum mansion in the South (<http://www.nottoway.com/html/plantation-tours-history.htm>).

Tour #3: Tour of the USS Kidd (DD661) and the Old State Capitol. A Memorial Service for our departed will be held at the Veterans Memorial Museum adjacent to the USS Kidd. The USS Kidd (<http://www.usstkidd.com>) is the centerpiece of a memorial which serves to honor the men and women of our American armed forces. Also, the USS Kidd is a national historic landmark. The Old State Capitol is a Gothic revival castle built in 1847 (<http://www.exploresouthernhistory.com/louisianacapitol2.html>). It was burned by the Union Army, then repaired in 1882; it was the State Capitol until 1932.

Don't forget to bring your dancing shoes as our evening dinner/dance will be held in the hotel with a local entertainer playing your favorite music and singing.

Other attractions in the Baton Rouge area include:

The Baton Rouge Zoo houses 1,400 animals and birds in naturalistic outdoor habitats (<https://www.brzoo.org/>). One section of the zoo highlights the region's fish, reptiles, and amphibians, while another section of the zoo features tigers and an Asian aviary.

Magnolia Mount Plantation is a plantation house that has a collection of furnishings and

decorative arts in a carefully restored setting (<http://www.brec.org/index.cfm/park/detail/112>).

The Louisiana Art and Science museum contains art galleries, an ancient Egypt gallery, and a Planetarium (<http://www.lasm.org/>).

Port Hudson Battle Grounds is a national historic landmark and is home to the longest siege in American history – it began on May 23, 1863, and ended on July 9, 1863 after 48 days (<http://www.crt.state.la.us/louisiana-state-parks/historic-sites/port-hudson-state-historic-site/index#>).

Take a step back in time by taking a drive down River Road to view the plantations (<http://www.louisianatravel.com/articles/river-road-plantations>). These include Destrehan Plantation (the oldest documented plantation in the lower Mississippi Valley); the San Francisco Plantation (a national historic landmark noted for its lavish and intricate interior painting; Oak Alley Plantation (named for the canopy of 300-year-old oak trees at the entrance to the plantation); St. Joseph Plantation (one of the most complete plantation homes on River Road); Houmas House Plantation (in the 1860s was the largest sugar producer in the US); Evergreen Plantation (contains the most complete intact collection of slave cabins in the nation); The Whitney Plantation (the oldest and best preserved plantation on River Road); and the Frogmore Plantation and Gins (one of the best-preserved cotton plantations in the Mississippi River Delta).

As you can see, there is plenty to see in Baton Rouge. Please join us in September for our reunion! We look forward to seeing you there!

Please note:

Included with this newsletter are the 2015 Dues Request Form and the Reunion Registration and Tours Forms. You must contact the hotel directly for a reservation; that information is included on the Registration and Tours Form.

2015 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 2015 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 CHANGES 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)

USS Caperton (DD-650) ___ USS Cotten (DD-669) ___ USS Daly (DD-519) ___

USS Dortch (DD-670) ___ USS Gatling (DD-671) ___

Dates Served Aboard Ship _____

Rank/Rate Aboard Ship (Optional) _____

If you are unable or unwilling to receive the DESRON 30 mailings via email, please check here.

Or - sign on to 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 -

DESRON-30 / USS Cotten (DD-669) / USS Daly (DD-519) / USS Gatling (DD-671)

Reunion Registration and Tours Form
September 20th to 24th, 2015, Baton Rouge, LA

Schedule of Events

Sunday – September 20th Baton Rouge Embassy Suites, 4914 Constitution Ave, Baton Rouge, LA
Hospitality Room opens at noon for Registration and Early Birds. Special rate of \$129.00, plus taxes, is good for two days before the start of reunion. For those who drive, there is a free parking lot. There are no RV hookups. Make **your reservation directly with the hotel 1.800.362.2779 before August 28, 2015.** You **MUST** stipulate you are with the **Desron 30 Military Reunion Group Code D3R** to obtain the special rate. Lunch and/or dinner on your own.

Monday – September 21st Hospitality Room opens at 7:00 AM for later arrivals. Free made to order breakfast each day. Free Manager's Reception each evening with hors d'oeuvres and well drinks.

8:30 AM Tour #1 Bus tour to the Cajun Pride Swamp Tour and The National WWII Museum in New Orleans, 9 hours. Lunch included at the WWII Museum. Dinner on your own upon return.

Tuesday – September 22nd

12:30 PM Tour #2 Bus departs for a 5 hour tour of the Louisiana Rural Life Museum and the Nottoway Plantation. Lunch and dinner on your own.

Wednesday – September 23rd

8:00 AM Joint business meeting - All ships.

9:00 AM Tour #3 Bus departs for an 8 hour tour of the USS Kidd (DD661) and the Old State Capital Tour. A Memorial service for our departed will be held at the Veterans Memorial Museum adjacent to the USS Kidd (www.uskidd.com). Lunch on your own in the Baton Rouge downtown area. Return to the hotel in the mid afternoon.

6:00 PM No host bar before banquet dinner.

7:00 PM Evening dinner-dance in the hotel with a local entertainer playing and singing your favorite music. Dancing shoes are highly recommended.

Thursday – September 24th

Checkout time is noon. This concludes the reunion, or you may extend your stay on your own as you wish for an additional two nights at the same reunion rate.

(Sign up sheet *continued on next page*)

Monday WWII Lunch includes: Lettuce, tomato, pickle, cookie and bottle of water:

Choices: **Ham, turkey or beef; White, wheat or Kaiser roll: Coleslaw, pasta or potato salad**

Please write in the lunch choices for each attendee (Ham, turkey or beef); (White, wheat or roll): (Coleslaw, pasta or potato)

Shipmate _____ Spouse _____
Guest #1 _____ Guest #2 _____

Banquet Dinner includes: Garden salad, vegetable medley, warm rolls, ice tea or coffee and dessert:

Entrée Choices: **Chicken Louisanne on bed of pasta Grilled Top Sirloin Steak with potato Vegetarian Plate**

Please write in the entrée choices for each attendee (Chicken, Steak or Veg) :

Shipmate _____ Spouse _____
Guest #1 _____ Guest #2 _____

PLEASE PRINT Your:

Last Name _____ First _____ MI _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Tel # (_____) _____ - _____

E-mail address _____ Circle: WWII, Korea, Post Korea Service

Please PRINT name(s) as you wish on your name tag(s):

Shipmate First _____ Last _____

Spouse First _____ Last _____

Guest #1 First _____ Last _____

Guest #2 First _____ Last _____

Please indicate any dietary needs below. Also provide an emergency contact and flight details. Free airport shuttle from Baton Rouge International Airport.

Registration fee \$93 per person includes Hospitality Room, Wednesday Banquet, music, name tags, etc.

Registration fee \$93 per person	Number of person(s) _____ x \$93 = _____
Monday Tour #1 fee \$89 per person	Number of person(s) _____ x \$89 = _____
Tuesday Tour #2 fee \$55 per person	Number of person(s) _____ x \$55 = _____
Wednesday Tour #3 fee \$38 per person	Number of person(s) _____ x \$38 = _____
	TOTAL _____

Please fill in this Registration/Tours form and return your check or money order payable to: **DesRon 30**
Mail form with a check or money order by Friday August 21st, 2015, to:

**Dennis Holt
62496 E Amberwood Dr
Tucson, AZ 85739-1830**

If you have additional questions, contact Dennis at 520.818.1108 (Leave a voice mail if no one answers)

Or email: desron30holt@yahoo.com. (Please use email subject line -- **2015 DesRon 30 Reunion**)