



DESRON 30 News

Reunion Association Newsletter



Winter 2014

Vol. 2 No. 2

Director's Winter Letter #1

By Dick Myers

I write this in the absence of Dennis Holt, who was unable to attend the Washington D.C. reunion. He has been busy planning the Baton Rouge 2015 reunion, and an outline of that event is presented below.

This was our largest reunion ever. We had 83 people at our tours and dinner. The whole reunion was better than I had hoped, and even our problems in visiting the White House ended up being better with a substitute tour to the Capitol. Events and detail are covered below

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 2015 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 us in 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 Baton Rouge, LA, and the New York/Hudson River Valley area in 2016. Plan your calendars with these in mind.

Director's Winter Letter #2

By Dennis Holt

There's a very worn out expression we've all heard: "Don't volunteer for anything." This also applies when you don't attend the annual reunion. "Nominated and elected" by default for office. All kidding aside I'm honored to serve. Thank you.

Now, the reason my wife, Faith, and I weren't in attendance was due to the trip of a lifetime. You're familiar with the term, "We'll do it in the future." Don't. Now is the time.

We sailed on the Celebrity Millennium for 30 days. Departed Vancouver, BC, to Petropavlovsk, Russia; Otaru, Hakodate, Tokyo, Yokohama, Mt. Fuji, and Osaka, Japan; Jeju and Incheon, South Korea; Tianjin/Beijing and Shanghai, China. By now I believe you will appreciate the significance of the cruise to me and Faith. These were the same waters our respective ships and shipmates sailed during WWII and the Korean wars. It was an enlightening experience.

We were disappointed in missing the reunion in Washington. From what I've heard and read, it was a huge success with 73 participants. I'd like to exceed this with 80 in Baton Rouge next year... So, it will be very important to make your hotel reservation now. There are a limited number of rooms and you may always cancel without penalty up to the end of August 2015.

See you in Baton Rouge...

Treasurer's Report

By Dick Myers

Here is the Treasurer's Report as of 9/22/14.

EXPENSES

Postage	\$176
Newsletter	\$ 2,093
Licenses and Fees	\$205
Office Supplies	\$195
Web Site	<u>\$200</u>
TOTAL	\$2,869

INCOME

Dues & Contributions	\$ 3,460
2014 Results – Up to Reunion	+ \$ 591
Checkbook Balance	\$1,381
Savings Account	<u>\$1,376</u>
TOTAL CASH ON HAND	\$2,757

Destination: Washington, DC

By Nancy Bielot

The 2014 DESRON 30 Reunion was held at the Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport in Herndon, VA, September 17-20.

On Wednesday we had two buses take 52 people to the U.S. Capitol for a tour. We had a guided tour of the Rotunda, the Crypt, and then went to the Senate Gallery. Unfortunately the Dome Restoration Project was ongoing during our visit, so there was scaffolding on the outside of the dome and the interior was undergoing restoration as well. After the Senate Gallery, some folks chose to go back to the hotel on the "early" bus, while the others remained for the "late" bus. Some of the folks who stayed went to the House Gallery. While sitting outside the House Gallery, a Senator saw Dan Budd sitting and went over to him, shook his hand, and thanked him for his service to our country.



Again on Thursday we had two buses. The first bus held the Cotten and Daly attendees, with Dick Myers in charge, and the second bus held the Dortch and Gatling attendees, with Mike Killian in Charge. (Both Dick and Mike are retired Navy, and it was required that a retired Navy person be on each bus in order to enter the Naval Shipyard for the Navy Yard Museum; more on that in this article.)

Upon arrival at Arlington Cemetery, after the Welcome Center, the first stop was the tram. The group of 60 (which included two tour guides), passed the Kennedy Memorial, the Space Shuttle Challenger Memorial, the USS Maine Memorial, the Amphitheater, and attended the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Did you know that more than 400,000 people are buried in Arlington Cemetery, including Presidents Taft and Kennedy? Not only that, but John Stedman, a former crew member of the Cotten (but not attending our reunion), along with another gentleman, laid a wreath at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Upon boarding the tram, we passed the Canadian Cross of Sacrifice Memorial,

President Taft's grave, and the Women in Military Service for America Memorial.



After a quick stop at the Pentagon City Shopping Center's food court, we passed the Pentagon. The Pentagon was built in 13 months and contains 14 miles of hallways!

Our guide also informed us that memorials are funded and designed by members of each conflict/war. For instance, funding for the Korean memorial was designed by members of that war, who did their own fundraising.



Our next stop was the Lincoln Memorial and the Korean War Veterans Memorial. What a view from the top steps of the Lincoln Memorial... past the reflecting pond, the WWII Memorial, the Washington Monument, and the Capitol Building! (From the Lincoln Memorial to the Capitol is 2.6 miles.) The Korean War Veterans Memorial contains a squad of 19 (stainless-steel statues) simulating going through a rice paddy field while on patrol; the reflection on the wall makes it appear as though there are 38 in the squad.



After that it was onto the Washington Navy Yard to see the National Museum of the U.S. Navy, which held quite a few exhibits (i.e., naval artifacts, models, documents, and fine art). Our guide informed us that torpedoes were built in the Washington Navy Yard. The Museum is the flagship museum of the U.S. Navy and part of the Naval History and Heritage Command.

A group of 11 people took the “small” bus to the WWII Memorial (after a brief “detour” through the city due to rush hour traffic and lots of one way streets). This was quite impressive as well. This Memorial honors the 16 million who served, as well as the millions of people who supported the war effort on the home front.



Friday was about a 1.5 hour ride on a bus for 42 people to Gettysburg Battlefield. Our very informative park guide, Gary Kross, gave us a LOT of information about the Battle of Gettysburg. The building the visitor center is in is 6 years old and contains a 377' cyclorama (longer than a football field!) which depicts Pickett's Charge at the Battle of Gettysburg. (Gary mentioned there are only 2 cycloramas left in the U.S., and the other is in Atlanta, GA.) The battlefield covered an area of 25 square miles, and the battle was July 1-3, 1863. There were 51,000 American casualties. Last year was the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. Lincoln gave the Gettysburg Address at the National Cemetery. Only one civilian was killed in the Battle.



The bus tour stopped three times along the battlefield route, and almost everyone got off the bus to hear more from Gary and soak in history (plus get a feel of what it was like 151 years ago). First stop was McPherson Ridge. Second stop was

the North Carolina Memorial, which is also the site of Pickett's Charge. The third stop was Little Round Top, which overlooked the field and Devil's Den. Upon return to the Visitor Center, lunch was on your own at the Refreshment Saloon, which offered sandwiches, salads, pizza, burgers, and hot dogs. Following lunch we saw a brief movie, and then went upstairs to witness the cyclorama (with a light show). There was time after that to tour the museum. Unfortunately we didn't go to the Dwight D. Eisenhower home as the Visitor Center didn't have enough trams to transport everyone.

Saturday was the men's Business Meeting – we're going to Baton Rouge, LA, in 2015! Saturday afternoon was free to explore the DC area (area attractions included: the National Zoological Park, Ford's Theatre National Historic Site, National Air & Space Museum, National Air & Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, the International Spy Museum, and the National Museum of Natural History, among others).

Saturday evening was our dinner/banquet at the hotel. Music was provided by DJ David Battey of Bialek's Music (www.Bialeksmusic.com). As in past years, we had a table set for POW's/MIA. Of the 62 people in attendance, the men in attendance received a pin for their hats, and the women received a folding tote bag. The Naval Jr. ROTC from the Jr. High School in Herndon, VA, provided a color guard to start off the evening. Our DJ then played, “God Bless America,” by Kate Smith. Chaplain Jake Keep of the Gatling gave the blessing, and then it was time to eat: rolls and butter, chicken or salmon, real mashed potatoes, vegetable, and chocolate layer cake on a plate drizzled with chocolate sauce.

After dinner, Dick Myers thanked everyone for coming and made mention of a few things:

- The current officers were re-elected at the Business Meeting
- In 2015 our reunion will be in Baton Rouge in the fall
- In 2016 our reunion will be on the west side of the Hudson River (Hudson Valley, NY, area)
- A \$250 contribution will be made to the Tin Can Sailors as a number of the gifts for the evening's raffle were donated by them
- In lieu of passing the hat at the Business Meeting, members were notified they could send an extra donation with their membership dues

At that point our Memorial Service was held. (See Page 3 for “In Memoriam.”) Betty King and

Josie Aliferakis rang the bell after each name was read.

Dick also noted that 46 crew members were lost in the past year.

A raffle was held for various items which were donated, as well as a 50-50 raffle. Approximately 40 gifts were raffled off. Some of the items included Tin Can Sailors tote bags, Tin Can Sailors gift certificates, Tin Can Sailors license plate holders, Tin Can Sailors one year subscriptions, a book entitled, "The Last Epic Naval Battle," candles, a free night at the Crowne Plaza/Dulles, a book entitled, "Into the Red Sea," and a book entitled, "Historic Naval Ships Guide." Thank you very much to Peter Panza, the winner of the 50-50 raffle, who donated his winnings back to the Reunion Association.

Mark your calendar for the 2015 reunion: September 20-24, 2015, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Baton Rouge, LA! (See Page 7 for "Mark Your Calendar.")

Sunshine Corner

By Jean Killian

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

In Memoriam

By Dick Myers

As of September 2014, 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	RANK
USS Cotten		
Brooks	Lawrence L.	SA
Cerchiai	Cesar	2nd Div.
Deschenes	Don	ET1
Dorman	Wayne E.	JTJG
Elliott	George R.	S1c
Fielding Jr.	John	GM3c
Gramiak	Mike	Coxswain
Haskowich	Richard	IC2
Hicks	Duwayne	GM3c
Hostrawser	Jerome W.	MR3
Ligori	Anthony Rocco	S2c
Marzluff	Joseph O.	Capt.

LAST NAME	FIRST	RANK
Musyt	William	
Poudrier	Bernie	YN3
Rosa	William	HN3
Stephenson	C.W. (Steve)	S2c
Tomlinson	Gerald E.	PN2
Tuttle	Roy W.	BMSN
Ziekefoose	Amal O.	
USS Daly		
Harry	Casey	Unknown
Forrest	Daniels	GM2
Javier	Granados	TM2 (TMCS Ret)
USS Dortch		
Don	Brown	Boiler Tender, 2 nd Class
Wally	Cooper	Electrician's Mate, 2 nd Class
Delores	Harwood	Wife of Norm Harwood
Dale	Kirchgassner	Seaman, 1 st Class
Shirley	Meyers	Wife of John Meyers
Ed	Olson	Electronics Technician, 2 nd Class
Rita	Tully	Wife of Richard Tully
Arnold	Zimmer	Corpsman, 2 nd Class
USS Gatling		
Ward H.	Apgar	FN
Harry M.	Drogitis	F1
Frederick E.	Gomez	EM2
Thomas W.	Harding Jr.	BM1
Robert C.	Kesselring	ENS
George W.	Mansfield	S1
Alan K.	McAdams	LTJG
Thomas	Mulverhill	TM3
Joseph J.	Nawrocki	SN
James J.	Rosser	S1
Melvin C.	Rull	TM2
Ronald J.	Scherer	SN
Jimmie H.	Shanks	BT2
Paul M.	Sharples	SN
Richard S.	Van Emburg	FN
Theodore P.	Walters	S1

Reunion Attendees

By Dick Myers

Below is a list of folks who attended this year's reunion, along with their ship affiliation. Thanks again to all who were able to join us.

USS Cotten (DD-669)
Tim & Joyce Ahles
John & Nancy Bielot
Thomas C. & Dolores Britting & Thomas (Son) & Shirley Tucker
Lt. Carl I. Duncan & Evely Cuda
William E. (Bill) & Lois Kenney
Capt. Mike & Jean Killian & Kathy Shoff (Daughter)
Cathy Galacka (Friend of Killians)
Betty King
Richard A. & Betty Myers
Peter W. Panza
Eugene G. & Deborah Redman
Joe & Trudy Sbarro
Edward L. Thornton
Phillip J. & Myra Toconita Jr.
Angelo Urato
John Urato
Ross A. & Mary Lou Webber
USS Daly (DD-519)
Nancy Daniels & William (Son) & Michele Delfs
Frank W. & Suzanne Millard
William & Patricia Underwood
Mike Wanamaker
George Zuban
USS Dortch (DD-670)
Robert Allison & Bobby (Son)
Frank E. & Mary Bisson & Catherine Fawell (Granddaughter)
Dan S. & Anne Budd
John L. & Rita Hartley
Edward J. & Frank Mahan & Anthony Reid (Friend)
Tomas E. & Eileen Mrozinski
Robert & Rita Ratcliffe
USS Gatling (DD-671)
Josie Aliferakis
William D. (Bud) & Beverly Brown Jr.
Dewey & Sharon Cosgrove (Friends of Browns)
Richard L. & Phyllis Delph
Jack W. Keep III & Margaret Simpson (Daughter)
Walter W. McKay
James L. & Karen Samson
Robert N. Smithson
Bobby E. & Heather Sugg
Robert M. & Irene Valliant

Past Reunions

By Dick Myers & Dennis Holt

Below is a list of past reunions for the Cotten, including those held as part of the DESRON 30 Reunion Association.

	Year	Location	Comments
1	1981	Pittsburgh, PA	
2	1983	Memphis, TN	
3	1984	Philadelphia, PA	
4	1985	Nashville, TN	
5	1986	St. Louis, MO	
6	1987	Denver, CO	
7	1988	Louisville, KY	
8	1989	El Paso, TX	
9	1990	Mobile, AL	
10	1991	Norfolk, VA	
11	1992	Merrimack, NH	
12	1993	San Diego, CA	
13	1994	Cincinnati, OH	
14	1995	Savannah, GA	
15	1996	Baton Rouge, LA	
16	1997	Seattle, WA	
17	1998	Vestal, NY	
18	1999	Charleston, SC	
19	2000	San Diego, CA	
20	2001	Pittsburgh, PA	
21	2002	Atlanta, GA	
22	2003	San Antonio, TX	
23	2004	Naperville, IL	
24	2005	Branson, MO	
25	2006	Norfolk, VA	
26	2007	Colorado Springs, CO	
27	2008	Jacksonville, FL	
28	2009	Fall River, MA	
29	2010	San Antonio, TX	w/ DESRON 30
30	2011	Tucson, AZ	w/ DESRON 30
31	2012	Dayton, OH	w/ DESRON 30
32	2013	Branson, MO	w/ DESRON 30
33	2014	Washington, DC	w/ DESRON 30

Below is a list of past reunions for the Gatling, including those held as part of the DESRON 30 Reunion Association.

	Year	Location	Comments
1	1986	Des Moines, IA	
2	1987	Denver, CO	
3	1988	Ashville, NC	
4	1989	Norfolk, VA	
5	1990	Nashville, TN	
6	1991	Charleston, SC	
7	1992	Providence, RI	
8	1993	Baton Rouge, LA	
9	1994	Buena Park, CA	
10	1995	Seattle, WA	
11	1996	Buffalo, NY	
12	1997	Phoenix, AZ	
13	1998	Kansas City, MO	
14	1999	San Diego, CA	
15	2000	Valley Forge, PA	
16	2001	Palm Beach Gardens, FL	
17	2002	Norfolk, VA	
18	2003	Bloomington, IL	
19	2004	San Antonio, TX	
20	2005	Norfolk, VA	
21	2006	Baltimore, MD	
22	2007	Warwick, RI	
23	2008	Wells, ME	w/USS Caperton
24	2009	Fall River, MA	w/USS Cotten
25	2010	San Antonio, TX	w/ DESRON 30
26	2011	Tucson, AZ	w/ DESRON 30
27	2012	Dayton, OH	w/ DESRON 30
28	2013	Branson, MO	w/ DESRON 30
29	2014	Washington, DC	w/ DESRON 30

**DESRON 30 Reunion
Association Annual
Business Meeting –
September 20, 2014
Crowne Plaza Hotel,
Herndon, VA**

By John Bielot

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 AM in the LaGuardia and O'Hare Rooms at the Crowne Plaza located in Herndon, VA, by President Dick Myers.

President Myers informed the members that

based upon the vote taken last year, the next Reunion of the DESRON 30 will be in Baton Rouge, LA. Dennis Holt is in negotiations with the hotel; dates will be included in the next newsletter. (See Page 7 for "Mark Your Calendar.")

President Myers mentioned that the digital recorder was broken.

President Myers recognized the following WWII members in attendance:

Robert Valliant – Gatling
Dan Budd – Dortch
Carl Duncan – Cotten
Pete Panza – Cotten
Ed Mahan – Dortch

President Myers asked if there were any objections or changes to the minutes from the last business meeting as published.

Current financial status:

Checking \$1,381
Savings \$1,376
Total \$2,757

\$3,460 income since last year.

Expenses:

Newsletter \$2,100 (over 1,000 copies mailed)
Website \$ 200
State \$ 569
Total \$2,869

Net + ~\$600

Dennis Holt suggested considering an increase to dues to \$15 for members without e-mail. A motion was made and passed to keep dues at \$10 for all. (This is a legal requirement.)

Upcoming reunions:

2015 Baton Rouge, LA
2016 Hudson Valley, NY

For 2013-10214 there are 185 paid members, consisting of:

Cotten 63
Daly 28
Dortch 23
Gatling 71

In order to vote at the business meetings, you must be a member in good standing (i.e., your

dues need to be paid).

Nominations for Directors were as follows:

Dennis Holt
Dick Myers
Betty Myers

A motion was made to keep the same Directors; the motion passed unanimously.

The password for our website is 8tincans, followed by the name of the ship (Gatling, Cotten, Daly, or Dortch).

Old Business

No additional new business.

There was a discussion re' collection of an extra \$1 or \$2 to tip the bus driver and tour guide.

Angelo Urato wants to investigate a cost estimate to obtain a DESRON 30 banner. Discussion occurred. A motion was made and passed to proceed with the purchase of a DESRON 30 banner as long as the cost does not exceed ~\$150.

Tonight there is a cash bar at 6:00 pm outside, followed by dinner at 7:00 pm. There will be a color guard at dinner, as well as a POW/MIA table.

President Myers mentioned that as part of the 50/50 raffle tonight, there will be some Tin Can Sailor subscriptions.

The Caperton may join us in Baton Rouge next year. They have their own reunion in Myrtle Beach in October 2014.

The Smalley and Bronson are doing their own reunions. There is no response from the Cassin Young.

Heather Sugg will be the contact for new hats, which will include the DESRON 30 logo and all the ships' names. The design will be in the next newsletter. (*See article on Page 7.*)

For the reunion in Baton Rouge, there will be an option for a tour to New Orleans to the WWII museum.

A motion was made to send a \$250 contribution to Tin Can Sailors, which was seconded by John Urato. There was some discussion. (Several Tin Can Sailor subscriptions will be raffled tonight.)

A question was proposed to the group: Do we want to have a plaque in the Navy memorial? The Daly does. The cost is ~\$2,500. This was deemed too expensive. A member will check on costs.

For 2016 the reunion will be in the Hudson

Valley, NY, area (Goshen/Middletown). Possible destination for 2017 is Las Vegas, NV.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 AM. The motion was seconded and passed.

Please note: Some members questioned why there was no "pass the hat" for donations at the business meeting. It was recommended that if you would like to donate to the DESRON 30, include the contribution along with your membership dues.

Mark Your Calendar!

By Nancy Bielot

Our 2015 reunion will be held September 20-24, 2015, at the Embassy Suites in Baton Rouge, LA. 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.) The registration form, including hotel information, will be published in our next newsletter; however, if you would like to contact the hotel and book your room NOW, you can do so by calling: 1-225-924-666 X7947 and mentioning the Group ID: DESRON 30 Military Reunion.

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.

Tour #2: Tour of the Louisiana Rural Life Museum and the Nottoway Plantation.

Tour #3: Tour of the USS Kidd (DD661) and the Old State Capital. A Memorial Service for our departed will be held at the Veterans Memorial Museum adjacent to the USS Kidd (www.usskidd.com).

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

Sign-up sheet and further information on these tours, as well as other sightseeing options, will be included in the next newsletter.

Can You Help?

By Heather Sugg

If anyone has a copy of the book, "The Sinking of the Princeton," please contact Heather Sugg at hsugg1@cox.net. Heather would like to read this book, and she will return it to you when she's done.

DESRON 30 Hats

By Heather Sugg

The next order of DESRON 30 hats are identical to the individual ship hats some of you may already have with DESRON 30, a Fletcher class destroyer, and then the individual ship name under that. Heather has already ordered 16....4 of each ship, but she will contact the vendor to let them know there may be more orders. The 16 are for those orders she got in DC; however, not all were sold and ordered, so she does have a couple extra. The price for the hats is \$15 due to the small order. Mailing charges a couple of years ago were approximately \$5; however the information she received said it shouldn't cost more than \$3-\$4 for shipping.

For further details, please contact Heather Sugg at hsugg1@cox.net.

Ice Cream for a Pilot

By Heather Sugg

Recently Edward "Ted" Powers passed away. After the funeral, Heather spoke with Ted's wife so that she could see Bob (Sugg's) Gatling hat. Ted was on board 1943-1946, and his picture was in the paper one time at a Veteran's affair. Heather, Bob, Ted, Ed Ferrance from the Princeton, and Phillip Craig, a pilot from the Princeton, met for lunch prior to Ted's passing. When a pilot was downed, sometimes they would stay in the water until the rescue boat from the "right" destroyer came by. In this case, the Gatling picked up Phillip, and they held onto him until they refueled – they got enough ice cream for the whole ship in trade. Ted attended the Gatling's reunion in Providence in 1992.



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 Address	

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) _____

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Or – sign onto the website at <http://DESRON 30.org> and make your 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: _____

