



# USS FISKE



DD/DDR 842 NEWSLETTER



Volume 30 - Number 2 - May 2014

## Fiske Celebrates America

### Shipmates Focus on the Meaning of Patriotism in the USA



President Gil Beyer

## President's Letter

Shipmates,

May has arrived at long last and hopefully it has finally brought an end to this brutal winter that the majority of the country endured. May also brings us Memorial Day. This day deserves special recognition by those of us that have served and the families of all those men and women that gave their lives in defense of this Nation.

In spite of the machinations of our elected leaders, I continue to believe that Memorial Day should still be observed on May 30<sup>th</sup>. After all, it wasn't until 1968 that Congress created four long weekends by making four Mondays a Federal Holiday. Those four holidays were George Washington's Birthday (formerly February 22<sup>nd</sup>, and now merely an excuse for mattress sales), Memorial Day, Columbus Day (formerly October 12th), and Veterans Day. I'm glad that in 1975 cooler heads prevailed and returned Veterans Day to November 11<sup>th</sup> from the fourth Monday in October, effective in 1978.

I would fervently support any senator or representative

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that picked up the banner carried by Senator Daniel Inouye from 1987 until his death in 2012. Senator Inouye, every year during that period, introduced a resolution that Memorial Day be returned to May 30th. I don't

.....continued on page 3

On the Road to Gettysburg....  
with Jeff Davis,  
1st Vice President & Reunion Host



### July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1863

The most critical day of the Civil War was July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1863. On that day, President Lincoln received word of the decisive, bloody and hard fought victory over General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia at Gettysburg.

On that day, Lee asked for a cease fire from the three days of fighting to gather the wounded. He offered a prisoner exchange so he would not be burdened by the several thousand Union prisoners his men had taken.

Union General George Meade refused the offer. By this time in the war, Union commanders realized that exchanged prisoners would be put back into the ranks of the Confederates; denying them, along with the superior number of enlistees and draftees in the Union Army would lead to success in a war of attrition.

Lee then decided to withdraw back to Virginia. He ordered one unit to remain behind to build large fires along Seminary Ridge that night to lead the Union forces to believe the Confederates were still there. He started his men

.....continued on page 5



# From the Editor's Desk



Sandie Siciliano,  
ETN2/USNR 1975-1980

Dear Shipmates,

With the long hard winter behind us, and spring in full bloom, we turn our anticipation to the welcome warmth of the days to come. We will soon celebrate Memorial Day - the holiday that has become the kickoff to the sunny days of summer, and punctuated by the celebration of July 4th.

While thinking of this column, it occurred to me that many of us might have forgotten how these holidays came to pass or the history of their origins.

Memorial Day (formerly known as Decoration Day), originated after the American Civil War to commemorate the fallen Union soldiers of the Civil War. By the 20th century, Memorial Day had been extended to honor all Americans who have died in all wars. Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces.

Known as the Fourth of July and Independence Day, July 4th has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of this celebration goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution (1775-83).

In June 1776, representatives of the 13 colonies weighed a resolution that would declare their independence from Great Britain. On July 2nd, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later its delegates adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson.

From 1776 until the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with typical festivities ranging from fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues.

The United States of America has been blessed with fortitude and the will to break the ties of tyranny. Based on the foundation that all men are created equal, we remain the land of opportunity for those seeking a better life.

It's easy to stay in a comfort zone - we served - we did our duty - generations before us did the same. Yet today, we are faced with what could be the greatest threat of all in this most dangerous world: Apathy. As you celebrate

Memorial Day - take a minute to remember service members deployed all over the world. And when you celebrate Independence Day, remember that freedom isn't free. Our troops have paid with their blood to keep us free. Thank them and their families.

- Sandie



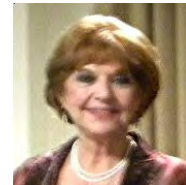
## U S S F I S K E

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### Return to Sender

Wasted postage adds up. We receive returns after each mailing marked "no forwarding address", or "address unknown - unable to deliver". This is why we ask for updates if circumstances change. A quick phone call to James (above) will keep your status current and the newsletter in your mailbox!

The USS Fiske (DD/DDR-842) Association, Inc. is a Not for Profit Corporation under the IRS Code 501 © 19 rules and incorporated in the State of New Jersey. This newsletter is published quarterly and distributed to all members of the Association.

**Dues are Due!** Please read the Treasurer's Report on page 7. Don't be apathetic about paying your dues. We are committed to keeping them low as expenses keep rising. At \$10.00 a year, it's a great bargain. Please make room in your budget to support your Association by sending your dues in today!





President's Message.... con't from page 1

believe that Memorial Day should be remembered as the 'unofficial start of summer' or simply the day that the Indianapolis 500 is run. I believe that it would be totally appropriate for the people of this nation to be forced to recognize the sacrifices made in their names. I believe that it would be appropriate for all our citizens to have to pause and reflect on the gifts that they have been given by a tiny minority of the population.

Let's make May 30th stand as created and interrupt the work week to give our nation's dead the respect they've earned and are entitled to.

Of Special Note: In the last issue, I wrote that the quarterdeck Board (built by shipmate William "Leo" Pittman) was "renovated by shipmate Charlie Thompson and updated by me in 2012". However, I stand corrected: Shipmate Bill Torrence actually did the first renovation after Leo had built it some years before, and Charlie built the shipping box.

- Gil

## Chaplain's Corner



W. Frank Stancil  
GMG3  
1959-1963

Shipmates Prayer

Father, thank you for each and every day with which you have blessed us here on earth. Thank you for your tender mercies. Thank you for giving us friends and family to share. I ask you to bless my friends, relatives, and those I care deeply for.

Where there is joy, give them continued joy. Where there is pain, give them your peace and mercy.

Where there is self-doubt, release a renewed confidence. Where there is need, fulfill their needs. Bless

their homes, families, finances, their goings and their comings. In thy

Holy name, Amen - Frank






# Notes from the Secretary

Jeff Kovite  
SOG2 1959-1961

Things have been fairly quiet these past few months, and, as it's been said "no news is good news".

On behalf of the Association, I'd like to extend greetings and a big hello to these shipmates who have recently joined us:

- Thomas Rose, MM3, 1977-78
- Gene Piccolo, QM3, 1971-72
- Dallas Gallo, RD3, 1968-69
- Elmer Makins, BM3, 1969-70
- John H. Naldrett, STG3, 1964-67

If you want to contact any of them to renew a friendship, give me a call.

Also, if you have internet access, take some time to explore the website at [www.ussfiske.org](http://www.ussfiske.org) for links, chat room, ships store, and more.



The Tin Can Sailors National Reunion is in Charleston, SC this year, August 17-21. I'm planning to be there and hope to see you there too.

Until next time, I wish you calm seas and fair winds. - Jeff K.

### Notable Quote



"To you who answered the call of your country and served in its Armed Forces to bring about the total defeat of the enemy, I extend the heartfelt

thanks of a grateful nation. As one of the nation's finest, you undertook the most severe task one can be called upon to perform. Because you demonstrated the fortitude, resourcefulness and calm judgment necessary to carry out that task, we now look to you for leadership and example to further exalting our country in peace." Harry S. Truman



## Meet Mark Hampton

Honorary Shipmate & Official Proofreader

If you've been enjoying the quality of the newsletters the past few years, a big part of the credit needs to go to the Editor's high school friend, Mark Hampton.

Mark is a retired language teacher who generously reads the proofs of each newsletter and checks them for grammar. He helps to make us look good! Shown here with his USS Fiske coffee mug, you can see the *Fiske Mates* column on his computer screen from our last issue in February.

Thanks and a hearty BZ to Mark for all his help!

- Editor



Gilbert E. Beyer,  
ETSN/ETR3 1960-1963

# Ship's Log Entries...

## Historian's Report

*A majestic ship was she, that sailed the seven seas, we were her crew, we saw it through, and logged our history.*



The Naval History & Heritage Command recently placed on-line the monthly Operational Reports for the period of April of 1966 through November of 1971 for all naval forces operating in Vietnamese waters. The main reason that I became interested in these newly released archives was the fact that I knew that Fiske had been in those waters during that period. I wanted to see if Fiske had been – as they said in the (very) old Navy – “mentioned in dispatches”. I didn’t find as much info as I wanted. Primarily for two reasons:

1) The Navy, in its infinite wisdom

did not produce a report for the month of March 1966, and

2) I have not yet received a response from the Navy History & Heritage Command on my request of the annual Operations Reports that all Navy units are required to submit.

More and more I’m becoming frustrated by this lack of action on the Navy’s part.

All I have are anecdotal reports from Shipmates that were in – or near – the War Zone from March 12<sup>th</sup>, until June 20<sup>th</sup> 1966.

I know, for instance that on April 4, 1966 the Fiske was fired upon by North Vietnamese artillery. Fiske did not

return fire and no damage or injuries were reported. I have anecdotal reports that one crew member was injured by shrapnel but the incident was never officially reported and therefore, according to the Tom Clancy Rule, never happened. I have more to report on the ’66 cruise but it will have to wait for another newsletter.

By the by – the ‘Tom Clancy Rule’ says, “If it isn’t written down, it never happened.”

These are words to live by as we approach the end of our tours on Earth

- Gil



### Question: Are You Eligible For Individual Unemployability?

To apply for this benefit, you will need to file VA from VBA-21-8940 known as the "Veterans Application for Increased Compensation Based on Unemployability". You can download the .pdf (Portable Document Format) document from:

<http://www.vba.va.gov/pubs/forms/VBA-21-8940-ARE.pdf>

If you don't have Acrobat Reader, you can download a free version here:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/reader.html>

# Government Matters...

With First Vice President, Jeff Davis



William G. Jeff Davis  
PNSN 1964-1966

The VA form is fairly simple and straightforward, only front and back, with instructions.

For any shipmates of retirement age, or older, who are currently receiving VA Service Connected Disability benefits, and are at 60% rating and less than 100%, you should apply for Individual Unemployability.

If you are unable to work and are younger than retirement age, you can still apply, though you will need a physician's statement that you cannot perform gainful employment due to disability.

Those under retirement age should also file for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) which you can also

receive. Current benefits at 100% include all medical treatment free, no co-pays; in addition, you can get free glasses, dental care, orthopedic shoes in some cases, and free pharmacy prescriptions.

Monthly benefit rates at 100% now are \$2858.24/month, \$3017.60 if your spouse is with you. Spouses are also entitled to some health care and educational benefits

- Jeff D.

Do you have a question about Veteran's Benefits?  
Email Jeff at: [ngfs66@vetsnet.us](mailto:ngfs66@vetsnet.us)  
or write to him: Jeff Davis  
1350 Fairfield Road - Gettysburg, PA 17325



# The Road to Gettysburg...

Reunion report....con't from page 1

west over South Mountain into the Cumberland Valley, and then south toward the Potomac River, with Virginia on the south side.

But Gettysburg was only part of the news Lincoln received that day. At Vicksburg, Mississippi, General Ulysses Grant received the surrender of the garrison at Vicksburg, commanded by Confederate General John C. Pemberton.

These twin Union victories delivered a much needed boost to the morale of the people of the North.

Gettysburg was the first resounding defeat of Lee's army, and it was the last time General Lee would send anything more than a raiding party into Northern territory, while Grant's victory at Vicksburg left the Mississippi River completely in Union control.

July 4<sup>th</sup> was much celebrated in the Northern states in 1863. - Jeff D.



September 24-27 2015  
 15th Bi-Annual Fiske Reunion

## Did You Know?

### THE AMERICAN LEGION



Our very own chaplain, W. Frank Stancil is the Department Adjutant of the American Legion of North Carolina?

In April, Frank traveled to the Washington, DC office where he joined other Legionnaires for a week-long round of meetings and events with various members of congress to specifically address and discuss issues affecting our veterans.

Among the "hot topics" brought forth were plans and actions involving the Veterans Benefits Administration, POW/MIA, the Veterans Health Administration, the National Cemetery Administration, as well as the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, and the USO.

One particular item of note is that on April 1, the Legion's legislative staff worked with the staff of both the House and Senate Committees on

Veterans Affairs to examine the possibility of starting legislation to help transform the appeals process - in a similar manner to the Fully Developed Claims (FDC) process - that the American Legion took the lead in developing for the Veterans Administration.

Frank gets a big BZ for his continued good works - not just as our chaplain, but for all vets as well!

- Editor

**Fiske Challenge Coins**

*This beautiful coin measures 1 5/8" between its crisscross edges. It is two-toned shiny and textured gold with silver/nickel highlights. The DD and DDR ship's patches are featured in full color (one on each side). Finished and sealed with an epoxy coating, the coin is contained within a clear poly envelope. Yours to treasure for years to come! Free History and Rules with every order.*

**Order From Ship's Store**

**\$13.00 ea, or 2 for \$25.00**

# Ship's Store

with 2nd Vice President,  
& Ship's Storekeeper, Sandie Siciliano



ETN2 1975-1980

These are just some of the items we have in stock. You can view the complete ship's store on the website. Please use the order form on page 8.

All shirts and caps are \$12.00 each.



Shirts are blue or gray.



Ball caps come in a beautiful stone beige, or navy. Or choose our new bucket cap in navy.



Remember, ALL caps are embroidered with your choice of DD or DDR-842.



Patches - \$5.00 for small, \$7.00 for large supply is very limited, small DDR is sold out.

Can Koozies, Magnetic Clips, Letter Openers (not shown), and Stress Balls are all \$4.00 ea, 2 for \$7.00, or 3 for \$10.00. (items can be combined)



Genuine Buck Gent Knife - \$30.00



Handle has the Fiske hull numbers and image.



## Fiske Mates

Featuring John Naldrett 1964-1967  
& Jim "Stew Baby" Stewart 1964-1967

Note: These Fiske Tales, in their own words, recall how John got back on board as the Fiske as pulling out of port, and why Stew pulled extra duty for an Nwai inspection.

Best friends and shipmates stick together, and so it has been with John Naldrett and "Stew Baby" Stewart.

From their adventures around the world on the Fiske to Stew's wedding - where John was his Best Man and Godfather to his son - the two were thick as thieves, and remain best friends today. This is John's Fiske Tale:

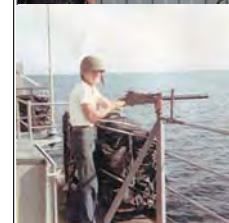
"Upon going through the Panama Canal, we were headed for Subic Bay, Philippines. We stayed there a day or two. From there, we went to Yokosuka, Japan. The ship's generator needed to be replaced or fixed.

Me and my buddy Jimmy Stewart went to Toyko for two days, had some fun and came back by train to the ports. Jimmy was ahead of me and went up the gang plank first. I was too late; they pulled the gang plank aboard the ship and were pulling away from the pier. There was one mooring line left; so I threw my bag up on the bow of the ship and grabbed the mooring line as the ship was backing out. I climbed the mooring line to the bow of the ship. *The Captain didn't look happy!*"



Some of Stew's recollections - "While in Vietnam, we were in combat zones three different times - 3/11/66, 4/4/66 and the 3rd - 5/25/66 - we were more than a days - like weeks. We had rescue missions, plane guard missions, and we were fired on by enemy shore batteries more than we wanted."

After the Fiske had returned home to Newport, Stew was transferred to the separation barracks for his final physical. He wrote... "While there, the ASW Officer, LTJG Lipscher, visited me; "Stewart he said, we've been hit with an Nwai, nuclear weapons acceptance inspection - please come back on board and help us. I don't have anyone to operate the Asroc Station computer the way you can". So, I did. And oh yea .. the USS Fiske passed the Nwai!"



Top to Bottom: John (R) with Stew at his wedding; Stew aboard at battle GQ station, and by the ASROC magazine.

### Dues & Contributions

Did you know that under IRS rules, a portion of your dues and contributions might be tax deductible?

### Blue Water Navy Truism

(from an old carrier sailor)

"There are more planes in the ocean than submarines in the sky."





Once again the hourglass of time has nearly run out on me to submit my most recent article to the Editor. While Sandie may be a distance away from me in Tampa, she is but a "mouse-click" away in reminder. As I am at great risk "of being late", I have summoned my great creative juices, words of magic prose and hopefully thoughts inspired by endless wisdom and foresight.

As none of those are actually present, I will have to fall back on the tried and true things that hopefully will bring you the workings of the Treasurer.

The routine completion of the year end reports, the filing of the tax return with the IRS and the Annual Report to the State of New Jersey have been completed by our accountant. It is absolutely necessary that an independent source review the work of the Treasurer each year and ensure that all required reports are completed in accordance with the latest laws. It is an element of protection not only for my work but to assure the membership that everything is being done correctly.

As to the tax filing, it is far better to have a professional file the return



James R. Rapson  
ENS/LTjg  
1964-1967

## The Treasurer's Report

than for an individual to try and keep up with the changes in the tax laws.

During the intervening years between reunions, the activities of the Association are generally light and amount to a maintenance of activities that are fairly routine in nature. The income stream is normally quite low and relies upon the receipt of dues from the members for its support. With nearly 600 members on the current roster, your \$10.00 per year dues would bring in a healthy sum if all participated. Unfortunately, that is not the case and we have not had an overwhelming response to the voluntary request for payment of dues. Since the dues payment receipt on the newsletter was sent out three months ago, less than 8% of the shipmates have responded. While this is not yet a critical situation for the Association, it does not keep pace with the minimum financial needs.

Also, while we do have sales from the Ship's Store, we see only minimal profits from those sales during this interim period between reunions.

This is your Association and only you can assure its continued existence. If you are unsure if you are current in your dues, a quick email or phone call to me will answer the question. A mail in dues form and all contact information are on page 8.

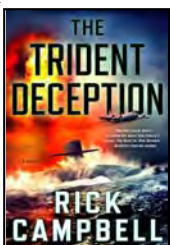
I am also open to any suggestions as to what may make a reminder for your payment of dues easier – a specific time of the year, every two years on the Reunion date, or other thoughts. Send them to me via email and we'll try to find the best solution to the problem.

That is all for now. May you have continued fair winds and following seas in all of your travels.

- James

## Store Keeper's Special Only One and One Time Only!

We have an autographed copy of Rick Campbell's book, *"The Trident Deception"*. Released in March, his book has had rave reviews as being the best submarine novel since Tom Clancy's *"The Hunt for Red October"*.



A native of Cocoa, Florida, Rick attended the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and spent over thirty years in the Navy. His tours of duty include four nuclear powered submarines, the Pentagon, and the Undersea Weapons

Program Office. On his last submarine, he was one of the two men whose permission was required to launch its twenty-four nuclear warhead-tipped missiles.

Rick considered writing for many years, and as he approached retirement from the Navy, he wrote *The Trident Deception*, a novel that draws on his extensive knowledge

of submarine warfare.

Rick lives with his family in the Washington, D.C. area, where he is working on the sequel to *The Trident Deception*, due out from St. Martin's Press in 2015.

Support the Fiske and buy this autographed copy for only \$35.00. Thanks to Rick's generosity, all proceeds go to our Association.



Make your selection from items shown throughout the newsletter



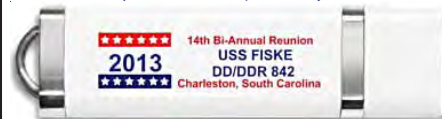
**Sandra Ehlers Siciliano**  
ETN2 (USNR)

MissChopin@TampaBay.RR.com  
(813) 920-6833



# SHIP'S STORE ORDER FORM

Charleston Souvenir  
2 GB Flash Drive - \$8.00  
(sale - was \$10.00)



**PERSONALIZED MUG**  
Black, White, Cobalt Blue or Green  
**SUPPLIER DROP-SHIPS \$25**



**Personalized Mug:** Name or Nickname    Color:    Rate:    Years:    DD (or) DDR    \$25.00  
Please print clearly to avoid errors

Item #	Quantity	Description	Color	Size	Price	Total

*Shipping: Please help us keep it free! Contribute any amount here if you can, with our thanks: \$ \_\_\_\_\_*

**SHIP TO:** Make checks payable to the USS Fiske Assoc., Inc.  
Please print clearly to avoid errors!

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:**

Name	Street Address	
City	State	Zip
Phone	Email Address:	

**MAIL TO:** Sandra Siciliano, USS FISKE - Ship's Store Keeper - 6528 Steeplechase Dr. - Tampa, FL 33625

**THE ONLY OFFICIAL FISKE SHIP STORE IS ON OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.USSFISKE.ORG](http://WWW.USSFISKE.ORG)**

*Your assistance will help us reduce the cost to print and mail notices with postage at .49 cents per ounce each!*

**2014**

Clip this out and return with your check in the amount of \$10.00 made payable to the USS Fiske (DD/DDR-842) Association, Inc.

**Dues**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** For Members who are either current or paid ahead, the amount will be recorded for the next open year.

**Send To:**

**USS Fiske (DD/DDR-842) Association, Inc.**  
**c/o 244 Park View Avenue - Warwick, RI 02888**

**Email: [jrrapson@cox.net](mailto:jrrapson@cox.net) - Phone: (401) 781-5879**



*A contribution in any amount to help those members unable to pay their dues is always greatly appreciated.*