

USS FISKE

DD/DDR 842 NEWSLETTER

Volume 29 - Number 4 - November 2013



Gettysburg Pennsylvania!

Landmark Historical Site Chosen for 15th Biannual Reunion



President Gil Beyer

President's Letter

*New 1st Vice President Elected
Gettysburg Selected for our 15th*

Shipmates, with the 14th reunion in Charleston behind us, and an accelerated pace in front of us to publish this edition on time, I too heard the IMC and am responding at best possible speed. It is not prudent to alienate anyone in the Supply Department. The big news is to report the election results for officers, and that Gettysburg, Pennsylvania is the destination of our next reunion.

I would like to thank the membership for reelecting me as your President. I take great pride in this position but I could not do it without the assistance and aid of a great team of officers and appointments: Our new 1st VP William G. Jeff Davis, 2nd VP Sandie Siciliano, Treasurer James Rapson, and Secretary Jeff Kovite.

I will continue as Ship's Historian, and Sandie will keep up with the newsletter and ship's store. Fortunately for us, Chaplain Frank Stencil, Webmaster Steve Gilbert, and Master-at-Arms John Degnan all agreed to remain in their appointed positions. With their help I hope we can continue to make the FISKE Association one of the best in the fleet.

The new reunion host is "JD" (Jeff Davis). He will be

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

Ahoy Shipmates!

First, as the new kid on the block, I must say that I am happy to have been elected to the team of Officers and Appointments. It is a pleasure to be part of a group that works so well together, and I pledge to do my best to serve you all equally as well.

Not being one to meander, my first act as your reunion host was to hit the ground running on Monday morning after returning from Charleston.

While reconnoitering local hotels, I also met with the good folks at the Gettysburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. They are quite excited that we are coming to town in 2015 for our next reunion.

Here is a little background of our plans to date: In addition to the tours of the Battlefield and the Eisenhower Farm Presidential Site, there are many other areas of interest in the area.

South Mountain is the home of 20,000 acres of orchards, where apples, peaches, plums, and pears are grown. By coincidence, "Pippinfest" (the Apple Harvest Festival) takes place in nearby Fairfield during the same weekend as our reunion.

Also in the same area are four golf courses with varying degrees of difficulty for you floggers; and, just to the southeast of town is a large outlet mall. Downtown Gettysburg has tons of shops dealing in souvenirs, art, artifacts, clothing, ...continued on page 8



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assisted in an advisory capacity by past reunion hosts so that we don't have to reinvent the wheel for every reunion in the future, and also to ensure a very memorable gathering in 2015.

- Gil

From the Editor's Desk



Sandie Siciliano,
ETN2/USNR 1975-1980

Dear Shipmates,

As another cycle of our Association is logged in the past and we look forward to the future, I would first like to thank the attending members at the Charleston reunion for keeping me as your 2nd Vice President, and tell you that I am delighted to serve you in that capacity. One might note that between "other duties as assigned" by President Gil Beyer, I am kept plenty busy with Ship's Store and this newsletter; this being the 9th edition as your Editor. While in Charleston, it heartened me to hear that it has been well received. Thank you for the kind words! It is my goal to continue in good stead.

Now, in the interest of financial prudence, I've put the paper on a publishing "diet" for this one issue: Missing, but returning in February are *Fiske Mates*, *What's Up with the Web*, *Store Keeper's News*, and *Ship's Store*. This decision allows us to publish a two page spread of reunion photos from Charleston without adding double postage and extra printing expenses for additional pages. It's all about weight, thus the "diet". In the interim, if you can't get to the website to view store items, just email or call me and I'll fill your orders that way.

Analyzing past reunions, the approximate attendance at Newport was around 165, Post Falls 70, Milwaukee 60, and Charleston, 71. There are two important points here: First, with regards to attendance, it is easy to see why we are going to Gettysburg. We are primarily an east coast crew (see the map on page 7), and Gettysburg is a splendid choice because of its location based on our membership.

Another huge consideration is Ship's Store which must be physically moved. Shipping to Post Falls and Milwaukee was a major expense to the Association that ate into the bottom line of its sales when the pennies were counted. Second: While Ship's Store has always been above \$1,000 in sales at reunions, Charleston was the highest ever. Compare the sales to the attendance and you'll know why I am happy and proud to say that, thanks to those who attended, and thanks to their support and generosity, store sales reached nearly \$1,600! As you know,

Ship's Store, dues, and contributions are our only means of support, so thank you again - each of you makes my job easy to love!

Finally, with the upcoming holidays, I wish you good health, happiness, fair winds, and following seas. - Sandie



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**Have You Moved?
Changed your Email?
Changed your Contact Info?**

Don't leave your Navy family behind!

We don't want to lose track of you. Please contact James Rapson above for any change in your status.

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! The cost of your quarterly newsletter far exceeds the dues amount! For the very small sum of \$10.00 a year, we strive to bring you the best of the Fiske news. Please help us continue by making an effort to pay your dues and if you can, add a small contribution for those unable to do so. We need you!



Chaplain's Corner



W. Frank Stancil
GMG3
1959-1963

God offers you promises of Hope, Courage, and Healing, and more. They are gifts to you! May God's word be your guide today and every day of your life. Please remember the ones that we know who are having health issues in your daily prayers.



Frank

By Special Arrangement Post Reunion Special Genuine Buck Gent Knife



Only Five in Inventory

\$30.00

1 7/8" drop point blade, 420HC stainless steel, 2 3/4" closed, lockback. Handle has the Fiske hull numbers and image.

Charitable Donations...

During the Business Meeting, the members voted on charitable donations to be awarded in the name of the Association. This year we selected the Lone Sailor Navy Memorial of Central Florida (located at Bluejacket Park, Orlando, Florida) for a one-time donation of \$150.00. This request was made by shipmate *Frank Boffi* as a tribute to the former recruit training base from World War II.

\$250.00 was given for our continuing support of the Tin Can Sailors organization for 2013 and 2014.



Notes from the Secretary

Jeff Kovite
SOG2 1959-1961

Shipmates,

This is a brief review of the business side of the reunion: At the EXCOM Meeting, a decision was made to put a "Reunion Host Committee" (consisting of past hosts) in place to assist the current host, and those who follow. By sharing their collective wisdom and experience, they will act in an advisory capacity to help the host with the enormous responsibilities of planning the event, negotiating fees, contracts, etc.

During the Business Meeting, shipmates voted to retain the same officers, with the exception of the vacant position of 1st Vice President.

Welcome to William G. Jeff Davis, (aka "JD" to avoid confusion). We offer our heartiest congratulations to him - not only for agreeing to serve in this capacity - but for presenting a solid case as to why we should hold the next reunion in Gettysburg.

President Gil Beyer reappointed Master-at-Arms (John Degnan), Chaplain (Frank Stancil) Newsletter Editor and Ship's Store Keeper (Sandie Siciliano), and Web Master (Steve Gilbert), while keeping his own appointment as Ship's Historian.

At the request of shipmate *Bill Taylor*, \$250.00 was donated to the Fisher House, a worthwhile organization that assists wounded veterans and their families. You might want to visit their website at: www.fisherhouse.org.

Requests for specific donations may only be made at the Business Meeting held during the reunion. If you have a request you MUST be present to propose it. Just another good reason to be on deck when the roll is called in 2015. *James*



Elected Officers, (L-R), Sec'y Jeff Kovite, 1st VP "JD" Jeff Davis, 2nd VP Sandie Siciliano, Pres. Gil Beyer, Treas. James Rapson
- photo by John Frazer

The Association has just over 600 members, and I am happy to report that over two dozen more have joined recently. Sadly, we also lost several:

In July, 2013: *Jean Marcel*, TM3, 1959-62, *Moody G. Siebert*, LTjg 1953-1957, *Robert L. Harper*, YN3, 1951-52, *Clarence J. Roberts, Sr.*, FN, 1966-1968; *Gerald Goodson*, FTG1, 1965-1967, passed in September, and finally, we were notified that *Charles A. Perrin*, GMG1, 1963-1967, passed in 2006.

If you have internet access, you can visit our website: www.ussfiske.org to view the complete *Honor Roll of Deceased Shipmates*. Each shipmate's name is read at the reunion banquet to the tolling of the ship's bell. They will not be forgotten. I wish you fair winds and smooth sailing. *Jeff*

Veteran's Day - 2013



Having Fun in Charleston! Go Navy!

John & Janet Frazer - John & Providence Degan - Eldon & Frances Caulk - Gregory & Janice Sutchko

James & Geri Rapson - Frank V. Boffi - Sandie & Ralph Siciliano - Gil & Sherry Beyer - Paul Crone - Bill Taylor



Jeffrey Kovite & Diane Heckathorne - Bill & Marcia Torrence - Merle & Jennifer Wagner - John and Sharon Van Kouwenberg

Frank Annunziata & Jill Goodman - George & Jeannine Barford - Dick & Christine Pettingill - Mike Petro

Photos by Sandy Bires, John Frazer, George Post and Gil Beyer

Fiske Mates Celebrate at Banquet!

Bill & JoAnn Loening - Charles & Louanne Lorzing - Frank & Shirley Carbaugh - Howard & Carol Coleman

George & Elizabeth Post - Ed & Johanna Baniak - Paul & Lois Shipe - Barry & Patricia Welliver - James & Sandi Bires



Vicki Hall - Jerry & Betty Jo Guertin - Steve & Loretta Gilbert - Charlie & Barb Thompson - Jeff & Janet Davis - Jim & Jan Hamner

Larry & Marsha Hovland - Dave & Jeanne Smoot - Frank & Judy Stancil - Richard & Barbara Huber

Photos by Sandy Bires, John Frazer, George Post and Gil Beyer



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.



A This entry will be a brief extension of my remarks at the reunion banquet in Charleston. Sadly, as I write this, we just received word that another shipmate, E. Gerald Goodson, passed away September 25th – the very day I arrived in Charleston for our reunion.

Speaking as your Historian, Gerald's FISKE experiences are more stories we will never again be able to share, and that is also sad.

As we age, our stories become our legacy to following generations. It is essential for future generations to learn of, and from, the past. A very wise man, George Santayana, once said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it".

It has been my experience that if we don't learn from our past we will continue to do things wrong in the future. Or, at the very least, have embarrassingly funny stories to tell.

As I said at the reunion banquet, we need to write our stories down lest they disappear. I'm asking again – for about the nth time – please drop me an email, a letter or a text message on some event that occurred during your time on the FISKE. I promise that I will do my best to incorporate any information I get into our history or into our forthcoming 'Fiske Tales' publication. This is also the prime reason that our newsletter editor, Sandie Siciliano, started the *Fiske Mates* column - to encourage you to

share your stories and adventures.

'Fiske Tales' and 'Fiske Mates' attempts to keep the narrative the same as written by you, so that the telling is truly yours. Speaking for both of us on this two-prong approach, we think your shipmates will enjoy your stories as much as you've enjoyed theirs. They are not only interesting, entertaining, and worthy of sharing, they are also historical. If you have photos to supplement them, all the better. All originals will be returned unharmed after scanning. If you can't write them down, call one of us and let's chat. We'll do you proud!

If you need more information or have any other questions, don't ever hesitate to contact me at any time.

- Gil



Editor's Note: *Jeff Davis' experience with the Veterans Administration makes him uniquely qualified for "Government Matters". He has worked with Congress and the court systems on veterans' issues since 2005, and also on legislation for Blue Water Navy Veterans from the Vietnam War. In 2008 he spoke at the Capitol to help introduce the Agent Orange Equity Act. He continues to provide guidance to veterans filing claims for Agent Orange exposure, or appealing those claims while still acting as an advocate for veteran issues.*

Government Matters...

With First Vice President, Jeff Davis



William G. Jeff Davis
PNSN 1964-1966

Question: "I had a claim denied because it lacked "service connection". What is service connection?"

Answer:

Service Connection exists when verified proof shows the disability for which you filed a claim is traced to a direct cause while you were on active duty with the military. For example:

Your service record shows you worked in the engine room and now you have hearing loss, but your civilian occupation did not indicate a loud environment, and your medical records since leaving the service do not show any diseases or injuries that would be

a cause of hearing loss. It then can be assumed that your hearing loss stems from the time you spent in the engine room of your ship. Thus, you have a service connected claim. - Jeff D.

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



Just heard over the IMC a request from the Newsletter Editor to lay up to the Quarterdeck with my article for the November 2013 Newsletter.

As we have just finished the 14th Reunion in Charleston, I have not yet completed the financial recap for September nor started entries for October. Rest assured that all receipts and expenditures will be recorded and that copies of the monthly financial report will be sent to all Officers, Directors/Past Presidents and any other shipmate who has requested to be kept abreast of the financial health of the Association. If you would like to receive the monthly report, or even just see it once a year, send me an email request and I will gladly accommodate your request.

The first item that I would like to attend to is to welcome William G. Jeff Davis to the Association as the newly

"One of the reasons that Gettysburg was selected was that it is near to the center of 56% of our membership."

That percentage places 336 shipmates who live within a 400 mile radius, and under seven hours driving time. 151 live in the South, and 114 west of the Mississippi, for a total roster of 601.



James R. Rapson
ENS/LTjg
- 1964-1967

The Treasurer's Report

elected 1st Vice-President. I find Jeff Davis to be an excellent choice and know that the Association will be well served in the coming years.

In addition to his officer duties, he volunteered to be your host at the 15th reunion in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania (September 24-27, 2015). While that may sound like quite a distance away in time, now is when plans have to be started. The byword is that "If you fail to plan, then you plan to fail".

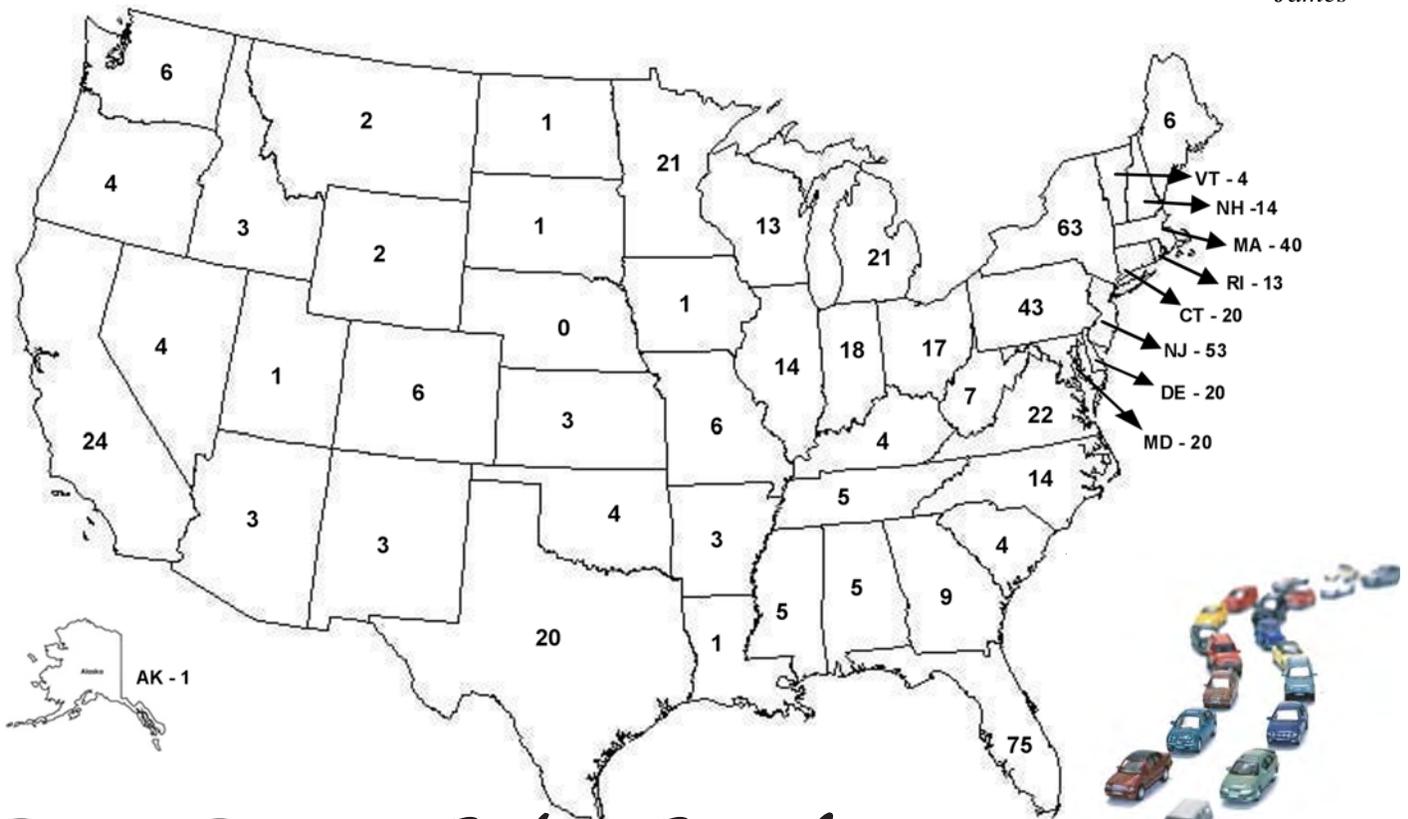
One of the reasons that Gettysburg was selected was that it is near to the center of 56% of our membership. As

the ages of our members grow older, we need to look at places that are easier for us to drive to. Of equal importance is a venue that offers attractions that will interest us enough to make us want to go there.

I am sure that Jeff or I would like to hear from you with a quick email that you are thinking about attending. Our emails addresses are on the page two of the newsletter, so just drop either of us a note.

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

James



State Stats - Where We Live ...



Charleston in Review

Final Charleston Report ...

From Jeff Kovite, Secretary & Reunion Host, & President, Gil Beyer

What a wonderful reunion we had in beautiful Charleston! The hotel was elegant, and the weather near perfect, as we gathered together once again.

By Thursday evening the hospitality room was buzzing as we watched "The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors", then multiple episodes of the famous documentary "Victory at Sea".

On Friday we headed over to Patriots Point and spent the day crawling over the *USS Yorktown* CV-10 and the *USS Laffey* DD-724, also known as "The ship that would not die". Saturday, a group spent the morning at the historic Magnolia Plantation and, of course, there was the member's Business Meeting in the afternoon.

The banquet that evening began with a cocktail party followed by dinner. Our guest speaker, retired navy captain Bob Howard, the Chief of Operations at Patriots Point then talked with us about the status and issues of the historic fleet scattered around the country.

I especially want to thank all those who volunteered their time to make this reunion a special one, namely, Gil Beyer and James Rapson, who formed the reunion committee, and Sandie Siciliano, our Ship Store Keeper, and her husband, Ralph, who worked like stevedores to offer the members an incredible variety of Fiske memorabilia.

A great time was had by all and we hope to see more of you in 2015!

- Jeff

The Charleston reunion was, in my mind, a success. I had the opportunity to meet some new shipmates and renew friendships with many others. We also had shipmates who were attending for the first time. I sincerely hope that they, and everyone else, will come to the Gettysburg reunion in September 2015.

Our tour of Patriot's Point was very interesting and a real flashback for me. Did we really live and work in those spaces? Granted, the *LAFHEY* is not the same class as the *FISKE* but the primary differences in the two classes were in the engineering spaces and bigger fuel tanks to give a greater steaming range caused by the vast distances of the Pacific.

Guest Speak Bob Howard, the Operations Manager at Patriots Point, made it very clear just how difficult it is to preserve and maintain these reminders of our past. His presentation was both informative and given with humor.

With Charleston, SC in my rear view mirror, I made my way north to Washington, DC, where I had the opportunity to pay my respects to Admiral Fiske and CDR Butt.

While there, I also witnessed the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns. If you have never been to Arlington National Cemetery to see this you should make an effort to do so. With that, I wish fair winds and following seas to all.

- Gil

The Road to Gettysburg

continued from page 1

collectibles, and food; also, there are events at Gettysburg College and a separate museum at the Lutheran Theological Seminary

Activities in the works include a very special event just for the ladies, and a particularly dynamic speaker for the banquet, who will most certainly bring the proverbial house down, and everyone to their feet.

In the months to come, look for more about accommodations, plans, and activities as we journey down this road together. I hope you will all be as excited about coming to Gettysburg as I am to be your official host.

No matter what direction you are coming from, all roads lead to Gettysburg!

Jeff D.



- Photos by Sherry Beyer