## USS EVERETT F LARSON DD/DDDR 830

**Summer 2014** Official Publication of the U.S.S. Everett F. Larson Association Newsletter Address: 83 Stonehedge Lane South, Guilford, CT 06437 WWW.USS-EVERETT-F-LARSON.COM



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#### **Presidents Corner**



I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the San Francisco reunion Sep 18-22. That's just around the corner. As mentioned in the Winter Newsletter, the event will be at the San Francisco Airport

Doubletree Hotel. That's in the community of Burlingame (5 minutes south of the airport). There is a free shuttle bus from the airport to the hotel. Make sure your shuttle goes to the Airport Double Tree in Burlingame and not to the Double Tree Airport North. Look on the side of the shuttle bus for the location.

Some have said they called the Double Tree reservation number and were told they couldn't get the rate of \$119 plus tax. To get the Larson reunion rate, do not call the national reservation number. You must call the hotel directly at (650) 373-2258 between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Pacific Time Monday through Friday. Identify yourself and use code "EFL". The rates are only good for the nights of the reunion; Thursday September 18 with checkout on Monday September 22. There are 50 rooms contracted at the Larson rate. We were told the rate would be available three days before and three days after the reunion, "based on availability." However, the hotel has determined that there will be no availability outside of the reunion dates. The deadline to make your reservations at the Larson rate is August 15th. If you haven't done so already, please make your reservation ASAP.

If you want to arrive a few days early and stay late, an option for those extra days is the Red Roof Inn just across the street from the Double Tree. Their before/after reunion rate is \$145 + tax. That's considerably less than the Double Tree before/after reunion rate. The Red Roof number is (866) 460-7456.

We will be voting on the location for the 2016 Larson reunion. I encourage shipmates to consider hosting that gathering in your favorite city. It will help get support if you come prepared with an estimate of hotel costs as well as potential reunion events.

Remember the San Francisco weather. It should be comfortable during the day and cool off at night. It would be a good idea to pack a jacket or sweater. While you're at it, consider packing an item for the raffle. – Bill Forbes

#### From the Vice-President



I know that the reunion in San Francisco will be an exciting and enjoyable one. It looks like the events have been well thought out.

Good job to Clyde and Deborah Bingham.

The last time I was in San Francisco was on the Larson in 1968 and I am sure a lot has changed since then. I look forward to seeing many familiar faces and look forward to an enjoyable reunion.

Thanks again - John Clements



#### From the Treasurer

The current balance in the Larson Association checking account is \$13,993.51.

I want to thank all who have sent dues and words of encouragement during my years as "keeper of the checkbook". I have advised Bill Forbes that I will not serve a 4th term as treasurer. It has been an honor serving you for the past 6 years. Please consider accepting a nomination to this position. Contact Bill by phone or email and let him know prior to the election at our upcoming reunion. I assure my successor a smooth transition.

Andrea and I will not be attending the reunion in September, but we look forward to seeing many of you in 2015. – Frank Wyzywany



#### Notes from the Larson Historian

I get to talk with a lot of the guys and get some great stories. Never know how much is

100% true but I'm pretty sure that these stories are the way the guys remember them. For instance:

Our first CO, Horace "Iron Mike" Myers was very popular with the crew but was tough. He searched out guys from the base brig who were in for stuff like gambling and drinking but who were otherwise what he wanted in a sailor and arranged to get them added to his roster. He was a combat vet who believed you could never have too many guns. He had his guys raid the shipyard at night and steal every 20mm they could find: all you had to do was bolt them to the deck and you were ready to go. I'm not sure the Larson rated 20mm's, but it had a BUNCH. I noticed that a lot of the plank owners were transferred to the Naval Hospital right after the first work-ups. One of these was stationed on a 20mm that was so close to the 5 " gun that his clothing was in tatters, as were his nerves!

Captain Myers was rough on XO's, too. He had four in about a year and one of those was fired for not cleaning his shoes before entering the office hut they had set up in Japan during the initial occupation!

I also get to read a lot of obits. One of the original crew made Time Magazine . His brother was killed at Pearl Harbor and his father marched him to the U S Navy Recruiting Office on December 8th and made him sign up!

I have one more trip to St. Louis and by then I should have a pretty good idea of how many plank owners are left, plus I'll have at least some info on all of them and photos of many if not most. St. Louis will send me summaries of service (but not photos) as long as the guy has been out no

more than a given number of years. All you guys out there from the 40's and early 50's are now in that group. If you want your service to our country to be properly documented, **please** contact me. My contact info is in page one. – Gene Maresca



#### From the Secretary

We are still trying to complete the Association's file of past activities. If you

happen to have copies of Newsletters or meeting minutes from the years 2000, 2001, or 2002 your Secretary would very much appreciate getting a copy for the file. If you're coming to the San Francisco reunion, just bring it along and I'll be happy to copy it and return it to you right there. I hope you're looking forward to the reunion as much as I am.

Terry Weathers, Ltjg 1955 - 1958



## In Memoriam Departed Shipmates (since last newsletter)

Chaplain Francis E. Juntunen

S2 Benny H. Terry 1945-46 Plank Owner, Passed away 3/32014.

DCM Alfred J. Wood mid-1950's, Passed away 3/28/2014 RDM2 Gene S. Mercer 1947-48 Passed away 4/18/13 William J. Bambury mid-1950's Passed away 4/8/2014 SN Melvin A. Jones 1945-46 Plank Owner

BT2 Eugene Tofarelli 1954-55

William C. Campbell 1970's passed away 5/1/2014 BM1 Edward W. Kalkauski 1966-67, passed away 3/19/2013

CAPT Carl R. Quanstron 1963-94 (Former C.O.) Passed away 4/3/2013

FC3 Richard C. Dunn 1945-46 (Plank Owner) Passed away 4/15/2011

GM3 Henry S. Frasier Jr. 1945-46 (Plank Owner) Passed away 8/26/2012

FC1 Walton E. Foley 1945 (Plank Owner) Passed away 8/22/1987

PHM1 Frank A. Espinosa 1945-46 (Plank Owner) Passed away 7/1/1997

SN Ronald G. Tranchant 1952-53 Passed away 7/16/2013 ETC Richard A. Weidinger 1948-1950 Passed away 9/2/2013

CSC Al Pierre 1958-60 Passed away 5/13/2013 S1 Abel G. Jardin 1945 (Plank Owner) Passed away 4/12/2013

EM3 Eugene M. Willings SH3 Robert T Ayers F1 J C Miller

#### Mail Call

Does anyone have any color pictures of the Larson in the late 60s. I am looking for color schemes for the Kennedy-DD-850? Please email me if you do! ddr830@optonline.net

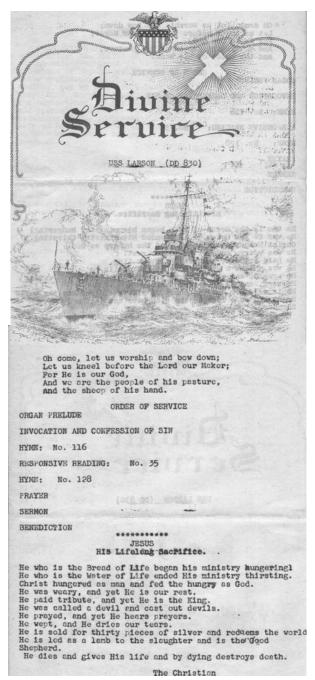
- Thanks Jim Hoffman

A note about life aboard the Larson in 1946. We were on patrol duty in southern Japan and arrived at the City of Kagoshima on Kagoshima Bay on 29 Jan 1946. One day for recreation we visited an island in the Bay which contained an extinct volcano and an active one(it's still active today). The object that day was to climb the volcanos which we did without much trouble. We traversed the extinct one which was a huge bowl into which 10 football fields would fit. The far side was covered in volcanic ash which we ran down (with each step we slid about 10 feet). we climbed the active volcano but there wasn't much going on except some escaping vapor. We had a ball that day including a race down the mountainside in a washed out gully like it was a race track, using the sides as a banked curve. The volcano is very active to this day, erupting frequently and two months after our climb it had it's first major eruption since 1914 or so the Stars & Stripes said. Lucky we weren't there then!!!

I have attached a newspaper article of the sinking of 24 Jap subs. The Larson and it's sister ship the Goodrich used shell fire to sink the I402 one of the largest subs ever.

I have also attached some photos of Larson shipmates, only a few are identified. Also attached is a copy of a Divine Service aboard the Larson.

I also have a brochure of the Larson's first anniversary. It's too large for my scanner, if you want it I will have it copied and forwarded. - Don Solsman





# A PRAYER Almighty God, who art the only source of health and healing, the spirit of calm and the central peace of the universe; grant to us Thy children such a consciousness of Thy indwelling presence, as may give us utter confidence in Thee. In all pain, weariness and anxiety, may we throw ourselves upon Thy besetting care, that, knowing ourselves fenced about by Thy loving omnipotence, we may permit Thee to give us health and strength and peace. Give us, too, the daily assurance of Thy forgiveness for our many sins and help us to believe with all our heart on Him who died on Calvary to atome for our sins, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

"The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth." (Ps.145:18)

"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." (Phil. 4:6)

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Heb. 4:16)

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (I John 1:9)

When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back; this I know; for God is for me." (Ps. 56:9) It has taken me a year to send this notice to the USS Everett F. Larson DD-830. Partly because my dad seems to be here with us when he gets mail from the people who were important to him...His duty on the Larson was something he talked about with our family. He didn't speak much about his years in the war, but he did speak a great deal about the people he had met along the way. Thank you for keeping the legacy alive—my cousin said with the death of my dad that ended our families attachment to the "Greatest Generation"; but I think it lives on in the way we live our lives as my dad would have....Thank you all for your service and investment in our future.

Gene Snow Mercer, age 85, passed away on April 18, 2013 after putting up a valiant struggle to overcome an asthma attack, which was further complicated by COPD and pneumonia. Gene was surrounded by his family when he said his good-byes. The youngest of seven, Gene was born on September 25, 1927 in Bountiful, Utah. Even then his parents knew that he was a fighter, and would impact history, as he was named after the world boxing champion Gene Tunney. Gene served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, along with his four brothers and brother-in-law. He continued to "serve" his country by taking on leadership roles until the day he passed away. Gene shared his tenacity and determination for creating a "just" world through his "solution focused" efforts with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Democratic Party, Social Justice Advocacy, Civic and Pool Association President. Most recently he was nominated to serve as Vice President at the Heatherwood Community, which he had called home for the last four months. Gene's career was as impressive as his passion for "living and leading". He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Utah and went on to have an accomplished 20 year career with United Airlines.

As he moved up the corporate ladder, Gene attended the University of Chicago, earning his Masters Degree--while helping his wife Velma raise their three children. In 1972, the Federal Aviation Administration hired Gene as an economist, where he flourished, finding new ways to enhance the aviation infrastructure though projects which included: developing tracking systems for counting planes; coordinating national conventions to address best practices and promote aviation networking; and playing an integral role in the planning and development of Dulles Airport, in Centerville, Virginia.

Upon retiring from 20 years with the Federal Government, Gene consulted with organizations around the world to help developing countries plan and build their aviation infrastructure—all while being the best grandpa and caregiver EVER! The two most important lessons Gene taught to those around him were that "family comes first" and "marry your best friend." He lived by those rules, making sure that he was always home for dinner, spending long hours helping the children with their homework (often at the last minute), attending and facilitating every extra-curricular activity his children and grandchildren participated in from T-ball to school plays.

As a husband he truly was a best friend, supporting his wife as professional, mother and life companion. Gene joins his wife, Velma who died April 1, 2011. He is survived and will always be remembered by his children and grandchildren Nancy Mercer, (Bart Bukas), Ellen Whitney, Chris Mercer (Brian Mercer), Nicholas Jarosz, Meghan Whitney (Josh Gray), Paul Whitney, Patrick Jarosz and Booger.

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#### \*\*2014 USS Everett F. Larson Association Reunion Information\*\*

Best transportation is the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) which picks people up at the International Terminal at SFO. It would take people to the Embarcadero station, where the on/off bus tours pick up.

The Go San Francisco Card from <a href="www.smartdestinations.com/san">www.smartdestinations.com/san</a>francisco is the best deal to see a lot of different places and has a single entry fee of \$50.

The options include: California Academy of Science in Golden Gate Park; Hop-On/Hop-Off Sightseeing Tour in Cable Car like trams with 18 scheduled stops throughout the city; Aquarium of the Bay; Golden Gate Bay Cruise; Exploratorium; Escape From the Rock (Alcatraz); de Young Museum (across the street from the California Academy of Science); Bridge to Bridge bay tour; Ripley's Believe it not @ Fisherman's Wharf; Cartoon Art Museum; Asian Art Museum and more.

Additionally there are two major Hop-On/Hop-Off double decker tour buses;

**Big Bus San Francisco** at <u>bigbustours.com</u> with 20 stops for \$38 ticket, groups of 15 or more get discounts

**CitySightseeing San Francisco** at <a href="https://www.city-sightseeing.us">www.city-sightseeing.us</a> with 14 San Francisco and 10 Marin county sites for \$45 and group discounts for 15 or more.

There are group discounts for individual events, but I think the **Go San Francisco Card** is the most flexible deal available for those that want to enjoy "Bagdad by the Bay" in smaller groups.

I'll provide info packets on these and other attractions in the "Welcome Aboard" packets that we will make up for everyone.

Page 4 continued..

My landlord is selling the house we have lived in for the past 10 years, so after July 1st I'll have a new mailing address. We need to add that to the reservation form that will be in the summer letter as well as on the web site. After July 1st mail reservation forms to: Clyde Bingham, 6144 Glen Harbor Drive, San Jose, CA 95123. Sorry for the change, it wasn't planned!

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#### The US Navy's Most Intimidating Creation Just Hit The Water!

The USS Zumwalt hit the water Oct. 29 and is due to start patrolling by 2014. The Zumwalt was originally estimated to cost about \$3.8 billion, but so much technology was crammed on board that its cost has nearly doubled, and after the first three are built, production will stop.

With all the new weapons systems the Navy wants aboard the Zumwalt, planners installed a power plant that could provide power to 78,000 homes. Such power could enable the first uses of the Navy's magnetic rail gun project, which combines magnetic currents and electric fields to fire projectiles at 7 times the speed of sound.

Computers and automation have reduced the crew to a bare bones 158. (By comparison, the USS Barry Arleigh-Burke Class requires 210 sailors.) Sean Gallagher of Arstechnica referred to the Linux-powered bridge as a "floating data center" and wrote that it was akin to the bridge on Star Trek's Star-ship Enterprise. On the outside, the USS Zumwalt not only looks cool (rule #1), but it's a full 100 feet longer than existing classes of destroyer. According to the Navy's press release, "The shape of the superstructure and the arrangement of its antennas significantly reduce the ship's radar cross section, making the ship less visible to enemy radar at sea."The hull of the ship is made of a composite material which effectively absorbs radar waves. Construction of the ship required General Dynamics to build a special \$40 million "Ultra Hull" to hold the pieces.

The Sumrall's weaponry is tailored for land attack and close-to-coast dominance and will also have a sensor and weapons suite optimized for littoral warfare and for network-centric warfare. BAE Systems Land and Armaments developed the ship's advanced gun system (AGS), which will be able to fire advanced munitions and the Zumwalt Class vessels have two landing spots for helicopters. Zumwalt has a peripheral vertical launch system (PVLS), which consists of 20 four-cell PVLS situated round the perimeter of the deck. The ship also has space for two medium-lift helicopter systems.

And finally, the new Long Range Attack Projectile (LRAP) — The DDG 1000 will be armed with tactical tomahawks, standard missile SM-3s, and the evolved SeaSparrow missile. With the "tumblehome" hull reducing drag and radar detection, along with such advanced weapons, it's like the Zumwalt is the Navy SEAL of ships — always operating under cover of night, a ninja of the sea.



#### Larson Sailors End of War in Japan



Solsman on quartdeck



Recreation Area at Sasebo, Japan

Recreation Area at Sasebo, Japan From L to R: Jack Agnew, Cowan, Joe Spear (front) Smithy (back), Palmer, Bill Patton (front), Larry Scordo (back)



Bernie Magee



Bill Patton





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#### Larson Sailors End of War in Japan



? & Bernie Magee



? & Bernie Magee





Fats Ziengenhine, Bill Berry Bill Patton, Lee (Alf) Clark, Bernie Magee



"O" Division on Fantail



Dick Dunn



Solsman & Cheif Harrison



Bill Patton (left)

## \*\*CURRENT EVENTS - PLEASE READ\*\* WE NEED MORE STORIES!!!

We have received some very interesting and personal emails and letters from those who served on the Larson, that you will find under the "Mail Call" heading.

There have to be hundreds of these stories.

We would ask you to think back to those years on the Larson and email it or write it down and send it to drice@ctslabs.com or Doug Rice,

83 Stonehedge Lane South, Guilford, CT 06437.

Give us as much detail as possible, with dates, names and we will share it with the Larson crew in our next newsletter!

Larson hats, shirts and jackets will be available from EMBROIDERY CREATIONS, 5050 Nebraska Avenue, Ste. 8, HUBER HEIGHTS, OHIO. Phone: 937–235–0441. Fax: 937–235–0487. Contact Chuck Hertzman Website: www.embroiderycreations.com or info@embroiderycreations.com

LARSON PATCHES AVAILABLE - Vern Smith, 1855 E. Oakmont Ave., Fresno, CA 93720, (e-mail: yttim2@dslextreme.com) has Larson Patches available and the cost is \$4.00 which includes mailing cost.

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## THIS IS NOT A DRILL Its still important to get dues paid and to get new members. We need to do both! DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Get Your Larson Newsletter Via Email
With every edition, your Association mails out
354 Newsletters and Emails 141 Newsletters to
members. Please let Doug Rice
(drice@ctslabs.com) know if we can just
provide you with the email version. With the
rising costs of stamps, envelopes and printing,
we would appreciate your help in cutting our
costs. Thank you for your help.

#### WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR SHIPMATES



Left to Right: Sokup, R.R GMG3, Balcauski, James GMG3, Davis A.G. SN, St. Clair R.K. SN

#### Attention on Deck!

Fill out this form, send it and your check made payable to: <u>USS Everett F. Larson DD-830</u> with a self addressed envelope to:

Frank Wyzywany, Treasurer 12 Ashleigh Court Lansing, MI 48906

Name:		
Address:		
City/Town:		
State:ZipCode:		
Tel #:		
Email: Please Check One:		
\$10.00 per year Full Membership		
\$120.00 Lifetime Membership (w/ spouse)		
\$5.00 per year Associate Member (no voting rights at meeting	•	
Years beng paid for:		

#### Mailing Address:

Are you current? Take a moment to check to see if you need to update information.

\*Send in the changes to Doug so you will receive your copy of the Larson Newsletter in a timely and cost efficient fashion.

> Doug Rice 83 Stonehedge Lane South Guilford, CT 06437

Name:
Address:
City/Town:
State:Zipcode:
Tel #:
Email:
Rate & Years on Larson:
Spouse's Name:

## Welcome to San Francisco, California and the 2014 USS Everett F. Larson Association Reunion

- Reunion Dates Thursday, September 18 through Monday, September 22, 2014.
- Hotel San Francisco Airport Doubletree Hotel, 835 Airport Blvd, Burlingame, CA 94010.
- The reservation number is **650–373–2258** Monday through Friday 7:30am to 3:30p PST. Be sure to identify yourself as part of the USS Everett F. Larson group, with the code **"EFL"**.
- The room rate is \$119 a night + \$15.34 tax. <u>If available</u>, this room rate is good for 3 days before and after the reunion dates.
- The hotel offers free shuttle service from the Airport and BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit).
- Parking is \$6 per day.

Date	Event	# of People	l otal Amount
Thursday Sept. 18	<b>REGISTRATION</b> , informal gathering w/ food and desserts \$7.00 per person		\$
Friday Sept. 19	SAN FRANCISCO BUS TOUR, lunch is on your own \$40.00 per person		\$
Saturday Sept. 20	USS HORNET, tour, Memorial Service, lunch in the Wardroom \$45.00 per person  Hot Turkey Hot Vegetarian Lasagna or Box Lunch		\$
Sunday Sept. 21	BANQUET, cash bar & music \$60.00 per person  Chicken Breast Pork Chop or Grilled Salmon		\$
Monday Sept. 22	Check out. See you next year in Florida!		
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED		CLOSED	\$
Name:First Name for Name Tag:  Spouse/Guest:First Name for Name Tag:  Address:			
	ip:e-mail		
What years	did you serve on Larson?		

#### Please complete the form and make your check payable to Clyde Bingham & return by 7/17:

Until 6/30: Clyde Bingham, 28 Via Mesa, San Jose, CA 95139, Home #408-360-8816, Cell #408-667-1271 After 6/30: Clyde Bingham, 6144 Glen Harbor Dr, San Jose, CA 95123, same phone numbers

**NOTE:** One of the fund raising events is the raffle. While we urge shipmates to bring an item for the raffle, there is no obligation to do so. We want to see you at the reunion, raffle item or not.

## Welcome to San Francisco, California and the 2014 USS Everett F. Larson Association Reunion

Thurs. Sept. 18, 2014

- Check into the San Francisco Airport Doubletree Hotel. 835 Airport Blvd., Burlingame, CA 94010. The hotel provides FREE shuttle to and from the airport. Just wait in the hotel shuttle area for the "Doubletree Hotel" shuttle every 15 min.
- The room rate is \$119.00 + \$15.34 tax per night. The rate is guaranteed for the 4 nights of the reunion. For making reservations call 650–373–2258 M–F 7:30 330pm. Our code is "EFL". Any problems with your reservation, ask for Paula.
- For 3 nights before and after the reunion, **if the rooms are available** the rates will be honored according to the contract that is why you want to be sure you talk to the hotel when you make your reservation. To obtain the quoted room rate outside the core days **register at the hotel as soon as possible!**
- Hospitality room will be open for early arrivals.
- Casual welcome gathering with food and desserts in the hospitality room about 6pm

Fri., Sept. 19, 2014

- Breakfast is on your own. Eat in the hotel or across the street at LeAnn's Café.
- The San Francisco Bus Tour leaves the hotel at 9am and returns at 4pm. We will have a guide with us for 4 hours narrating what we will see about the city. Then we will go about the city and stop and get off the bus at selected sites and be able to shop, eat and get going to the next place.

Sat., Sept. 20, 2014

- The Executive Meeting is scheduled from 8-9 in the Hospitality room.
- Breakfast is on your own. Eat in the hotel or across the street at LeAnn's Café.
- The USS Hornet Tour, the Memorial Service and a lunch in the Wardroom leaves the hotel at 9am. We should arrive at the Hornet about 10am. This gives us 2 ½ hours to tour the ship. We all need to be to the Wardroom by 12:30pm to begin the Memorial Service followed by the lunch. We need to be back on the bus by 2:30pm.
- At 5pm the Business Meeting begins followed by the Raffle.
- Dinner is on your own. There are many restaurants close by this hotel.

Sun., Sept. 21, 2014

- This is a day to be on your own. You may want to go back into San Francisco, by taking BART. The hotel will shuttle you to BART. Maybe you didn't get to ride the cable cars, or didn't get to see enough of the city. Maybe you need a day of rest.
- The Hospitality room is open.
- The Banquet, cash bar and music begins at 6pm.

Mon., Sept. 22, 2014

• Check out. Breakfast is on your own.