

2019 SEATTLE, WASHINGTON REUNION

USS EVERETT F LARSON DD/DDR 830

SUMMER 2019 Official Publication of the USS EVERETT F. LARSON Reunion /Association
Newsletter Address: 11608 Channel View Drive, Lakeview, Ohio
www.usseverettflarson.com

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN



2019 OFFICERS

Ellis Warmkessel, President 11740 Coronado Drive. Spring Hill, FL 34609 (352) 232 7655 erwarmkessel@aol.com .	Executive Committee (includes Pres. & Vice Pres) Donald Erskine 115 Laguna Lane Boulder City, NV 89005 (702) 293-2024 dtersk38@embarqmail.com
John Clements, V. Pres. 195 Elm Street. New Rochelle, NY 10805 (914) 235-1964. gandygray@aol.com .	Joe Torres 9236 South 10th Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85041 (602) 243-3495 joeyt07@msn.com
David Pickett, Treasurer. 1930 Crestview Drive. Orrville, OH 44667 (330) 465-2374. davpickett@aol.com .	Tom Nordquist Larson Newsletter Editor 11608 Channel View drive Lakeview, OH 43331 tnordqu670@aol.com
Terry Weathers. 9964 Sniktaw Lane. Fort Jones, CA 96032 (530) 468-2234. tmw@sisqtel.net .	Gene Maresca Larson Historian 2406 East Rutgers Road Indianapolis, IN 46227 (317) 786-5788 genemarsesca@aol.com
Bernard Diaz, Chaplain. 6731 Branch Street. Hollywood, FL 33024. bensab@bellsouth.net	

Hello, it's summertime already, the time goes by quickly & the 2019 Seattle Reunion with the Gearing Group is just around the corner. This year we will be holding an election for our association, as the last election was in 2015 for officers & 2016 special election for President.

The Seattle Reunion is being hosted by Shipmates of the USS EVERSOLE, a member of the Gearing Gang.

Art Jacobson is our point of contact for the reunion and he supplied an article in this Newsletter for the planned events. Please note that the deadlines for registration for the Hotel & Tours are required a little early, so get your reservations in earlier than our previous Reunions, so get your respond in ASAP. It is important we have a good turnout, as we will be considering a vote on joining future Gearing Group Reunions.

As we plan for the 2020 Reunion, Gene Maresca, our ship's Historian, has volunteered to Host in Indianapolis, Indiana. The area offers a wide variety of attractions of interest for everyone. Gene has a wealth of knowledge on the City, so it should be an exciting Reunion.

I would like to remind everyone that this is the 50th Anniversary of the collision between the USS Frank E. Evans (DD754) & the Australian Aircraft Carrier HMAS Melbourne in the South China Sea on June 3, 1969. For those of us on board the Larson, General Quarters was sounded at 3 am that morning, beginning long hours of looking for survivors (74 crew members were lost). At daybreak, our Engineering Department began the task of securing the Aft section of the Evans from sinking, keeping the remaining section afloat to tow back to Subic Bay, Phillippines. This is an experience that I Will never forget.

May you be in good health.

Hope to see you at the 2019 Seattle reunion.

Your President
Ellis Warmkessel

Note from Art Jacobson, Reunion Coordinator - 2019 Seattle Reunion

Shipmates

Here is the latest information I have regarding the Larson/Gearing Gang Reunion in Seattle, Washington, October 9-13, 2019. In January, I participated on an Ocean Cruise with members of the Gearing Gang. At that time we discussed our upcoming Reunion.

First you will notice that there are important deadlines - August 1, 2019 for the EVERSOLE Reunion Registration Form, & August 27, 2019 for Hotel Reservations.

For the Thursday, October 10 Boeing Tour & Pike Market tour, there is a maximum of 51 people that are allowed on this tour, so please get your reservation in as soon as possible, if you want to attend this event.

For the Friday, October 11 USS Turner Joy (DD951) Destroyer (will include a Ferry ride to Tacoma) & Auto Museum tour, there will also be a limit of 51 people for the tour. so please get your reservation in as soon as possible, if you want to attend this event.

Note that Lunch is not provided on each tour events - but food facilities will be available at a reasonable cost. For Hotel reservations, our Group Name is under EVERSOLE.

The Larson will be sponsoring a Mixer on Thursday, October 10 & this will be an opportunity to meet members of the other ship. Fun prizes will be drawn.

Before the Reunion starts, there is a possibility of a Wednesday morning, October 9 Golf Scramble. If you are interested, please contact Dick Petrowich at: rbpetrowich@gmail.com.

Finally, will need a few individuals to help manage welcoming & registering our shipmates. If you can volunteer to help, it would be appreciated. I will be at our registration area at 1:00 pm at the Hotel.

Art

Note from Tom Nordquist, our Ship's Newsletter Editor & Website Coordinator

If you have contribution to future Newsletters and Larson Website, please let me know at: tnordqu670@aol.com or call me at my Cell# 937-477-4613 or contact Ellis Warmkessel, our President at his phone or Email Address. There are hundreds of great sea stories all of us would like to hear. Give us as much detail as possible, dates & names, etc.

ANNUAL DUES

If you are not a current member, please consider becoming a current member. Effective March 1, 2015 - Annual dues are \$20.00/year or Lifetime Membership is \$150.00. Checks made out to: USS EVERETT F. LARSON (DD/DDR830) Association. Mail to DAVID PICKETT, 1930 CRESTVIEW DRIVE, ORRVILLE, OH 44667

**IN MEMORIAM - BERNARD DIAZ, CHAPLAIN
Departed Shipmates (Since last Newsletter)**

S2 Henry Carl 1946-47

-passed away 4/5/2019

MMC Phil Truax 1969-70

-passed away 6/8/2010

James M. McKee 1945-46 (Plank Owner)

-passed away 6/7/2019

RM3 Gilbert MacGregor 1952-53

-passed away 10/9/2018

RM3 Robert O. Gerkin Mid 1960's

-passed away 1/13/2017

S1c Richard A. Gregoire 1947-48

-passed away 7/26/2013

F1 Ronald E. Maurey 1945-46 (Plank Owner)

-passed away 3/25/2019

ETM2 Gene Noack 1966-67

-passed away 3/28/2019

EN Melvin Franke 1951-52

-passed away 9/26/2014

ET2 John Beynart

HISTORIAN REPORT SUMMER 2019

The news has been carrying reports of new discoveries of sunken WW2 era ships. One of these, the Japanese submarine I-58 was discovered May 25, 2017 & identified later in the year. The I-58 was the submarine that sank the USS Indianapolis & part of Operation Road's End, towed from Sasebo, Japan to an area off the Goto Islands with the remaining Japanese Sub Fleet was sunk, to protect their technology. For her role in the USS Indianapolis disaster, it would be sunk by gunfire. The Larson was one of two ships chosen & fired the 1st shot (which missed) & continued shooting until the I-58 slipped beneath the seas. This was the only ship the Larson sank.



USS Frank E. Evan's stern section tied up alongside the Larson, after she was cut in two in a collision with Australian aircraft carrier Melbourne. The ships were participating in Southeast Asian Treaty Organization exercises in the South China Sea, when the collision occurred. Photograph by PH2 Robert Green USN, Official US Navy Photograph, Naval Historical Center.

UPDATE ON CONGRESS H.R. 299 BILL BLUE WATER NAVY VIETNAM VETERANS OF 2019 (REPRINT FROM ASSOCIATION OF UNITED STATES PUBLICATION CAPITOL HILL REPORT DATED 6/13/2019)

The US Senate has unanimously passed the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, meaning the bill is now headed to the President's desk to be signed into law.

This a tremendous development for our veterans, and one we were not able to accomplish last year; the bill passed the House but never made it out of committee in the Senate - unanimously in both cases.

It follows another major victory for our veterans earlier this year, the Procopio Decision, in which a federal court decided 9-2 that Navy Veterans who served offshore during the Vietnam War are presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange and are therefore eligible for benefits.

Senator Steve Daines (Mont.), who AUSN. Honored at our annual Capitol Hill Reception in May for his work on Blue Water Navy Act, said in a statement: "Our Vietnam Vets who served both on land and sea deserved equal care for their bravery in defense of our country. I am happy to see my legislation pass. It is due time we get our Blue Water Vets the care their sacrifices demanded."

The Procopio ruling and this Bill rectify an injustice against our veterans that has gone on for nearly two decades. Congress passed a law in 1991 that required the VA to provide presumptive coverage to Vietnam veterans with symptoms linked to Agent Orange exposure, but the VA decided in 2002 it would only cover veterans who could prove that they actually had "boots on the ground," ignoring the tens of thousands of sailors who were exposed to the deadly chemical while stationed just offshore.

There is still much work to do before veterans can begin applying for benefits. The President must first sign the Bill into law, and the Department of Veteran Affairs is still determining how to implement the new policy. We will continue to monitor the situation and help our Navy Veterans get the benefits they deserve.

Complete eligible ship's listing & dates, at www.benefits.va.gov for the Navy & Coast guard Ships Associated with Service in Vietnam & Exposure to Herbicide Agents dated March 1, 2019. Use Everett F. Larson DD830 dates of Operation:

- Ship Category 1- Ships operating primarily or exclusively on Vietnam inland waterways. **Operated on Mekong River during December 15, 1967.**
- Ship Category 4 - Ships operating on Vietnam's close coastal waters for extended periods with evidence that crew members were ashore. Operated. **Sent crew members ashore while anchored in Van Phong Bay on September 15, 1969.**

2019 GEARING GANG/LARSON REUNION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9TH Activities

- A Golf Scramble is planned for a Golf Course in the area. Golf clubs will be available for rental. All attendees can play. Please contact Dick Petrowich (rbpetrowich@gmail.com) your interest & advise him by August 31st & need for clubs.
- Hospitality Room open
- Registration starts at 1:00 pm in the Hospitality Room. Registration fee is \$15.00/person for Conference expenses - name cards, hospitality suite, refreshments, etc.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10th Activities

- Tour Bus boarding at 8:45am for Pike Market & Boeing Plant. Limit of 51 people. Cost - \$85.00/person. Lunch is not included in price, but available on tour. Arrive back at hotel at 4:30pm.
- Hospitality Room available for Shipmates.
- Site seeing on your own.
- Evening Mixer in Hospitality room, sponsor is USS Everett F. Larson crew at 7:30pm.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11th Activities

- Tour Buss boarding at 8:15am for Ferry ride to Bremerton, WA for tour of USS Turner Joy & Museum. Lunch (not included in price) at a Bremerton restaurant. Tour of the LeMay Auto Museum in the afternoon.. Arrive back at 4:30pm.
- Hospitality Room open for Shipmates.
- Site seeing on your own.
- Dinner on your own at local restaurants.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12th Activities

- The Larson Crew will meet for a Business Meeting to discuss Old & New Business including 2020 Reunion Site, Motion to join the Gearing Gang in future Reunions, etc.
- Annual Raffle hosted by the Larson Crew. Please bring a Raffle item of modest value.
- Afternoon on your own.
- Evening Banquet, Memorial Service, & Color Guard. Seating at 6:10pm, serving Dinner at 6:30pm.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13 Activities

- Good Byes & Depart for home.

GET YOUR LARSON NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

Current mailings include 164 Emailed & 233 Mailed Newsletters to members. By receiving your Newsletter via Email, saves your Association a lot of money by not paying for stamps & publishing costs.. Please notify Tom Nordquist at tnordqu670@aol.com, your Email address for future mailings.

NOTICE: INFORMATION ON LIVING SHIPMATES

Currently, the Larson Reunion Association have been in contact with over 1000 shipmates. Our listing are Regular, Deceased or name with no current address or no forwarding address. Unless we are notified of a shipmates passing, we assume they are living.

Contact: Gene Maresca at genemmaresca@aol.com

2019 SEATTLE, WASHINGTON REUNION OCTOBER 9-13

Hotel - **Red Lion Hotel Seattle Airport**, 18220 International Blvd., Seattle, WA 98188
 Hotel Phone# 1-206-248-8182 or 1-206-246-5535. Rate good for 3 days before or after.
Group Code - EVERSOLE. Rate: \$109.00/night+Tax. Hotel cut off is August 27, 2019.
 Complimentary Shuttle Service at Airport Ground Transportation Area - Island 1 or 3
 By calling #29 for Red Lion Hotel Seattle Airport or call Hotel # 206-246-5535 for pickup.

DATE	EVENT	# of People.	Total \$ Amount
WED. 10/9	Registration: Open at 1:00pm in Hospitality Room Registration Fee is \$15.00/person		
THUR. 10/10.	Tour of Pike market & Boeing Aircraft Plant. Board Bus at 8:45am Limit 51 people. \$85.00/person. Return to hotel at 4:30pm		
FRI. 10/11	Tour of USS Turner Joy & LeMay Auto Museum. Board Bus at 8:15am. Limit 51 people. \$100.00/person includes Ferry ride to Tacoma, WA. Return to hotel at 4:30pm		
SAT. 10/12.	Morning Meeting - Elections. Raffle. Free afternoon Evening Banquet: Meal: Salmon _____ Roast Beef _____ Meal Cost for either Meal is \$40.00/person		
Sun. 10/13	Departure: Leave for Home		

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

NAME: _____ 1st Name for Name Tag: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____ 1st Name for Name Tag: _____

Address: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE # _____ EMAIL: _____

What Years did you serve on the Larson: _____

Send Registration to: ARTHUR JACOBSON, 141 W. BAYLOR LANE, GILBERT, AZ 85233
 Phone# (H) 480-857-0986 or (C) 480-625-5050 **EMAIL: artjacobson@yahoo.com or artjacobson@cox.net**

PLEASE BRING YOUR LARSON LANYARD, IF YOU HAVE ONE.

READ AT CO JOHN (JACK) PALMER'S MEMORIAL SERVICE

JANUARY 12, 2008

I like standing on the bridge wing at sunrise with the salt spray in my face and clean ocean winds whipping in the four quarters of the gold, the ship beneath me feeling like a living thing as her engines drive her through the sea. I like the sounds of the Navy, the piercing trill of the boatswains pipe, the syncopated clangor of the ship's bell on the quarterdeck, the harsh squawk of the 1MC and the strong language and laughter of sailors at work.

I like the vessels of the Navy, nervous darting destroyers, plodding Fleet auxiliaries, sleek submarines and steady solid carriers. I like the proud sonorous names of Navy capital ships: Lexington, Saratoga, Coral Sea - memorials of great battles won. I like the lean angular names of Navy "tin-cans": Barney, Dahlgren, Mullinix, McCloy - mementos of heroes who went before us.

I like the tempo of a Navy band blaring through the topside speakers as we pull away from the oiler after refueling at sea.

I like liberty call and the spicy scent of a foreign port. I even like all hands working parties as my ship fills herself with the multitude of supplies both mundane and exotic which she needs to cut her ties to the land and carry out her mission anywhere on the globe where there is water to float her.

I like sailors, men from all parts of the land, farms of the Midwest, small towns of New England, from the cities, the mountains and the prairies, from all walks of life. I trust and depend on them as they trust and depend on me - for professional competence, for comradeship, for courage, in a word, they are shipmates.

I like the surge of adventure in my heart when the word is passed "Now station the special sea and anchor detail - all hands to quarters for leaving port" and I like the infectious thrill of sighting home again, with the waving hands of welcome from family and friends waiting pier side. The work is hard and dangerous, the going rough at times, the parting from loved ones painful, but the companionship of robust Navy laughter, the "all for one and one for all" philosophy of the sea is ever present.

I like the serenity of the sea after a day of hard ship's work, as flying fish flit across the wave tops and sunset gives way to night. I like the feel of the Navy in darkness - the masthead lights, the red and green navigation lights and stern light, the pulsating phosphorescence of radar repeaters - they cut through the dusk and join with the mirror of stars overhead.

I like drifting off to sleep lulled by the myriad noises large and small that tell me that my ship is alive and well, and that my shipmates on watch will keep me safe.

I like quiet mid-watches with the aroma of strong coffee - the lifeblood of the Navy - permeating everywhere. And I like hectic watches when the exacting minuet of haze gray shapes racing at flank speed keeps all hands on razor edge of alertness.

I like the sudden electricity of General Quarters, all hands man your battle stations followed by the hurried clamor of running feet on ladders and the resounding thump of watertight doors as the ship transform herself in a few brief seconds from a peaceful work place to a weapon of war - ready for anything, and I like the sight of space age equipment manned by youngsters clad in dungarees and sound powered phones that their grandfathers would still recognize.

I like traditions of the Navy and the men and women who made them. I like the proud names of Navy heroes: Halsey, Nimitz, Perry, Farragut, John Paul Jones. A sailor can find much in the Navy: comrades-in-arms, pride in self and country mastery of the seaman's trade. An adolescent can find adulthood.

In years to come, when sailors are home from the sea, they will still remember with fondness and respect the ocean in all its moods - the impossible shimmering mirror calm and the storm-tossed green water surging over the bow. And then there will come again a faint whiff of stack gas, a faint echo of engine and rudder orders, a vision of the bright bunting of signal flags snapping at the yardarm, a refrain of hearty laughter in the wardroom and chief's quarters and mess decks. Gone ashore for good they grow wistful about their Navy days, when the seas belonged to them and a new port of call was ever over the horizon.

Remember this, they will stand taller and say,

"I was a sailor. I was part of the Navy and the Navy will always be a part of me"

LARSON LOGO APPAREL

An Account has been set up with L. L. Bean can supply Larson Shipmates with clothing apparel.

A shipping cost & state sales tax may apply

2 logos are set up with their art department in black lettering for light colored apparel & gold lettering for dark colored apparel. Products include Polo shirts, long sleeve shirts, jackets, baseball caps are available: small to XXL for Men & Women, a Larson logo can be added. A Service charge of \$16.00 for embroidered Logo. The clothing is very reasonable & great quality.

Phone# 1-800-832-1889, Reference:USS EVERETT F. FLARSON, Account# 543365

Website: www.llbeanbusiness.com