

Reunion 2001

The USS Gregory (DD-802) Association held its seventh reunion in Baton Rouge, La. on October 11, 2001. Attending were shipmates from the day of her commissioning to the day of her decommissioning. This reunion was very special as the USS Kidd (DD-661) was the main attraction. The Kidd is a 2100 ton Fletcher class destroyer, other than the numbers on her hull there is very little difference between her and the Gregory.

Thus far the participation and input for this year's reunion web page has been overwhelming, therefore in order to minimize the download time this web page will be divided into the following categories. Click on any one of the sites below to view the pictures shared by those shipmates who attended this fabulous reunion.

Reunion 2001 Registration & Hospitality Room

A hospitality room was provided for shipmates and their guest as a place to exchange memories and to make new friends from different eras of the Gregory's decades of service.

You may click on any picture to enlarge it, use your browser's back button to reduce it to its thumbnail size.

Shipmates began registering for the reunion events at noon on October 11, 2001



Ray Stranberg waiting to register, Don Gappa, VP of Association, in background. Sylvia Gappa and Andrew Allen, Secretary/Treasurer, seated, registering reunion attendees.

Charles Anderson (right) & Dennis Kellems (center) listening to shipmate LaVere Brundage.



Don Gappa explaining to Bill Laing that he can register with his eyes closed.



Bill Bletso & Dale Gregston remembering liberty pulled 56 years ago.



Charles Anderson tell sea story to shipmate Johnny Johnson his wife Ellen. Marie Anderson laughing at sea story.



Jack Nolta; "This is fun".



Laughing at sea story; Left to Right Jean Parsons, Andy Parsons, Ellen Johnson, & Johnny Johnson.



"And then I told the Captain" Charles Anderson, Maire Anderson, Carl Tindall, & Yvonne Tindal.



Jerry Jones, Lou Capelli & Tom Doosey
cold one?" _____ & _____

"Ready for a



Yes I registered, here's my packet. That's nothing I registered with my eyes closed.

"Two more days of this"



Renwick Young, Degennaro, & Anastasia Degennaro.



"Just one more day"



"None of those kid drinks for me" Paul Butler



Charles Anderson, "Hear ye! Hear ye!"

Ray Stranberg, "I don't know what FT stood for"





Don Gappa - Association Presidential Material



Don Johnson & Andy Parsons listening to another sea story.



"Yes, go ahead, I'm listening"

Plank Owners



***Standing:** James Johnson, Ken Williams, Whitey Richardson, & Andrew Allen **Sitting:** Patsy Degennaro, Renwick Young, & Lou Capelli*



Ken Williams & Whitey Richardson, "Just smile, I don't know who he is either"



Bill Bletso, Patsy Degennaro, & Whitey Richardson, "That's funny"

Left to Right; Bill Bletso, Patsy Degennaro, Whitey Richardson, Rewick Young, Tom Dossey, Virginia Dossey, & Martha Bletso listening to words of wisdom from "Old Salt".



Marv Dworzak (Far Right), "I'll just walk on by, I've heard that sea story before"

You may click on any picture to enlarge it, use your browser's back button to reduce it to it's thumbnail size.

Friday October 12, 2001

A visit to the past.



Shipmates and their guest gather at the Louisiana War Memorial preparing to board the USS Kidd (DD-661)



On the fantail of the USS Kidd a memorial service was conducted by Association President, Woody Baldrige. Woody called upon Whitey Richardson, Past President, to make the final roll call of the deceased. When all of our known deceased shipmates names were called a bagpiper boarded the USS Kidd playing Amazing Grace, then a trumpeter played taps. The service was closed with a prayer by Woody Baldrige.

Note: The service was planned to have closed with a gun salute from the 5" mounts, however, due to the recent acts of terrorism the Mayor of Baton Rouge requested that the 5" guns not be fired, we complied.



The USS Kidd (DD-661) is a 2100 ton Fletcher class destroyer restored to her original World War II configuration. She now sits in Baton Rouge, Louisiana as a museum.

Even though sitting out of water in this picture, she does still float. There is a dry dock built below her where she usually sits in the fall season. The dry dock is necessary because of the approximate 38' variation of the water level of the Mississippi river.



Shipmates were piped aboard as spouses and guests awaited on the fantail.



Leno Ravetto (Smiling), "Yes, we all slept here together"

Forward to aft: Russell "Frenchy" Stierlen, Walt Newman, & Don Gappa.



"He did it, not me"



Fore to aft: Frenchy Stierlen, Loy Buley, Bill Laing, & Ray Stranberg, Right: Bill Carpenter, Center Bobbi Laing.

Donald Lynn, "Yeah Right, You pick it up, I didn't pick it up 40 years ago and I'm not going to pick it up now."



The crew's vanity area.



A kitchen, just like Mom's.

.....and then we



were fed



A "Mud Machine" aka "Coffee Maker"

Tom Dossey, "God I miss that good Navy



chow"



"I don't know, the sonarmen called it RDT" washed our dishes.



And this is where we



Bill Carpenter & Grandson Kyle, "These hatches are smaller than they were on the Gregory."



Walt Newman, "You're kidding, we're up the Mississippi River"



Don Gappa, "Yeah, then he took it right up the Mississippi River."



Bill Laing & Walt Neuman, "Yep, we're up the river"



Ping..... Ping..... Ping..... Ping..... Ping..... Ping.....



Woody Baldrige "What noise?"



I don't know what it is! The sonarmen call it "A Tack Director"



"Who's driving this boat?"



"No, No, No, that's forward and tha't aft."



"Let's just wait here and watch the girls go by"



Mount 51



"Little Guns:



Lou Capelli in front of Mount 55



Jack Trimmer, Tom Dossey, & Jerry Ammons on the fantail.



Loy Buley modeling the new uniform of the day



Whitey Richardson, James Johnson, & Ken Williams in front of Mount 55



"Look, I think he's sea sick"

Ravetto, Don Gappa, Walt Neuman, & Bill Carpenter

Leno



Three Generations in Attendance

Bill Carpenter (center) his son Keith, (right) and his grandson Kyle, (left)

October 12, 2001 continued

Seeing the old ships galley and mess decks made everyone hungry so everyone gathered at the Casino Rouge for a great buffet of good southern cooking.



"Boy that Southern Surf & Turf was good"

You may click on any picture to enlarge it, use your browser's back button to reduce it to it's thumbnail size.

The Final Day

Saturday, October 13, 2001 - The final Day. Saturday was a free day for visiting the great culture of our hosting state. One could spend weeks experiencing this unique part of our great country.

Saturday night was the time for our goodbyes and a last chance to enjoy the wonderful fellowship of shipmates until the next reunion.



"Get ready, there's a bunch of old sailors coming for dinner."



"Looks ready, bring 'em on"



And then they arrived. Association President, Woody Baldrige, called upon Past President, Whitey Richardson to lead the group in the pledge to our American Flag. He then asked if anyone knew what other special day this was aside from our great reunion. Surprisingly a few did know. He then called upon Jerry Peterson, who was the shipmate who tipped him off in the first place, to inform the group. Jerry then announced to everyone that today was the 226th anniversary of the United States Navy. A great day for celebration.

After dinner, Woody announced the changing of the Association officials. Officials of the current administration were asked to step down from their place at the head table and allow the new administration to conduct the remainder of ceremonies and business allowing attendees to familiarize themselves with the new administration.

Previous Administration



(Left to Right) Andrew Allen - Secretary/Treasurer, Woody Baldrige - President, Don Gappa - Vice President, Jim Williams (not pictured) Past President

New Administration

(Left to Right) Russell "Frenchy" Sterlin - Secretary/Treasurer, Woody Baldrige - Past President, Jerry Peterson - Vice President, Don Gappa - President.



Keith Carpenter, son of shipmate Bill Carpenter, tells the group what a great experience it was to relive part of his father's past. Keith's generation could hear their fathers stories but until spending time with his father's shipmates and visiting the USS Kidd they were just stories. Bill's grandson Kyle also attended the reunion.

Ron & Dorothy Ludolph (facing away) Left to Right; Marie Anderson, Charles "Andy" Anderson, Carl Tindall, and Yvonne Tindall.



Vice President, Don Gappa (at podium) speaks to group. Left is Vice President Elect, Jerry Peterson, right is Sylvia Gappa and Secretary/Treasurer Elect, Frenchy Stierlen.

Left to Right; Carole Baldrige, Carol Peterson, and Jerry Peterson.



Jack Nolta receiving Gregory shirt won in raffle from Don Gappa.

"What size do you wear little fella?"

Donald Lynn looking at a picture that he doesn't remember.



President; Woody Baldrige, Carole Baldrige, and Carol Peterson.

Plank Owners



Standing, left to right; James Johnson, Bill Bletso, Patsy DeGennaro, Dale Gregston, Willie Williams, Whitey Richardson, Andrew Allen, Renwick Young and Lou Capelli in front.



Getting ready for the real photograprer.

Standing Left to Right; Richard Witte, Walt Neumann, Bill Carpenter, Don Gappa, Jerry Peterson, Marv Dworzak, Frenchy Stierlen, Loy Bulley, and _____.



Sitting Left to Right; Donald Lynn, Woody Baldrige, Ron Ludolph, Bill Laing, Andy Parsons, Leno Ravetto, Jerry Jones, Henry Bergman, and Norris Rouly.



Standing Left to Right; Don Gappa, Walt Neumann, Frenchy Stierlen, Loy Buley and Marv Dworzak.

Sitting Left to Right; Jerry Peterson, Bill Laing, Leno Ravetto, and Bill Carpenter.

Left to Right; Donald Lynn, Woody Baldrige, Paul Butler, Jesse Landa, Andy Anderson, and Ray Stranberg.



Ladies of the USS Gregory. We thank you for putting up with all the Sea Stories for the past two days.

Woody Baldrige & Donald Lynn.



Hope to see you in Annapolis - 2003

The Reunion 2001 Album

Thanks to Reunion Albums, www.geocities.com/reunionalbums, for providing the album in a digital format, it saved many hours of scanning and is of a higher quality than scanning them one by one.

(Click on any picture to enlarge, use your browser's back button to return)



USS Gregory Shipmates
60's



Ladies of The USS Gregory



Some of the Crew from the 50's & 60's



Left to Right; James Johnson, Bill Bletson, Patsy DeGennaro, Dale Gregston, Willie Williams, Whitey Richardson, Andrew Allen, Renwick Young, and in the front is Lou Capelli

Plank Owners

Birthday Boy!

Shipmates joined in celebrating Lou Capelli's 80th birthday on the night of the banquet.



1960 Radarmen and Officers



The Fifties were good to us!



What a Gang!



We're the best Three from the 60's



1960 Radar Gang

**Shipmates were piped aboard
the USS Kidd**



Bill Carpenter & Walt Newuman

Back in the Rack



Easy to get in, but how
do we get out?

**The Next Generation
Father & Son**



Bill & Keith
Carpenter



Dad never told me the stories I'm hearing....

Keith Carpenter



USS Gregory Shipmates await boarding of the USS Kidd in the Louisiana Naval War Memorial



Recalling old memories



The Radar Ladies



Don Johnson,
Gloria & Ken Boyer



Ah, Refreshments!



After a Great Dinner....



I swear to tell.....



Left: Secretary/Treasurer, Andrew Allen
Center: President, Woody Baldrige
Right: Vice President, Don Gappa



Andrew & Frances
Allen
1944 - 1946



Jerry & Bernie
Ammons
1954 - 1958



Andy & Marie
Anderson
1953 - 1957



Woody & Carole
Baldrige
1960 - 1963



Henry & Emily
Bergman
1959 - 1960



William & Martha
Bletso
1944 - 1945



Ken & Gloria
Boyer
1955 - 1958



LaVere & Betty
Brundage



Loy & Kathy
Buley
1958 - 1961



Paul D.
Butler
1952 - 1956



Louis & Dorothy
Capelli
1944 - 1945



Thomas & Virginia
Dossey
1945 - 1946



Patsy & Anastasia
DeGennaro
1944 - 1946



Harold & Bobby
Fabre Sr.
1959 - 1960



Don & Sylvia
Gappa
1958 - 1961



G. Dale & Pat
Gregston
1944 - 1945



William T.
Harrington
1955 - 1959



Donald & Marian
Johnson
1955 - 1957



James
Johnson
1944 - 1945



Richard & Ellen
Johnson
1953 - 1956



Jerry B. Jones

1961 - 1963



Dennis Kellums

1954 - 1957



William & Bobbi
Laing
1960 - 1962



Jesse Landa

1953



Ron & Dorothy
Ludolph
1957 - 1962



Donald & Jean
Lynn
1960 - 1963



Walt & Susan
Neumann
1960 - 1962



John Nolta



C.A. "Andy"
& Jean Parsons



Jerry & Carol
Peterson
1959 - 1960



Leno B. Ravetto
1959 - 1962



Norris Ross
Rouly
1961 - 1964



Ray & Wilma
Stranberg
1951 - 1954



Russell "Frenchy"
Stierlen
1958 - 1960



Jack Trimmer
1958 - 1960



Carl & Yvonne
Tindall
1955 - 1957



George & Rosalie
Williams
1955 - 1956



Ken "Willie" Williams
Ford "Whitey" Richardson
1944 - 1945



Richard & Rachelle
Witte
1961 - 1964



Renwick & Doris
Young
1944 - 1945



Bill Carpenter
Keith Carpenter (Son)
Kyle Carpenter (Grandson)
1959 - 1962

Minutes of Business Meeting

On October 12th 2001, in the city of Baton Rouge, Louisiana the business meeting of the USS GREGORY DD 802 ASSOCIATION, INC. was called to order at 5:10 pm by President Woody Baldrige.

Minutes of the business meeting in Branson, Mo. on June 9, 1999 were read by Andrew G. Allen Sec./Tres. These minutes were approved by the membership.

The financial report was then presented by Andrew G. Allen ; Current balance after income/expenses, approximately \$2,549.31 This report was approved by the membership.

Donald Gappa Vice-President then accepted nominations from the floor for the next reunion site..

The cities nominated from membership were CHICAGO, LAUGHLIN, SAN FRANCISCO, BREMERTON, ANNAPOLIS, SAN DIEGO, CHARLESTON, BOSTON, and PHOENIX..

Don then asked the membership to vote only on the top three (3) vote getters. The final vote of the membership was taken and ANNAPOLIS, Maryland was selected as the next site of the reunion to be held 18-24 months from current date.

Donald Gappa, Vice President then distributed a hotel survey for a drawing and also a brochure of the USS KIDD.

Woody Baldrige President provided an update on the roster project; Currently there are approximately 1200 names listed. We shall continue to seek sponsorship to convert microfilm to hard copy.

Donald Gappa then presented a Membership Report: Currently we have 119 members of the Association. Don further proposed that the membership volunteer a three (3) member "MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE", who will work and assist the Secretary/Treasurer. The goal is to refine the process for continuing membership, as well as to generate new members.. Volunteers for the committee are:

WALT NEUMANN ANDY ANDERSON BILL LAING PAUL BUTLER

Woody Baldrige reported on the Association Newsletter, which he will continue to edit. Articles were solicited for future publications..

Woody Baldrige then conducted the election of new officers for THE Board of Directors.

President----- Donald Gappa

Unanimously elected and accepted the honor to serve.

Vice-President---- Nominated:

Marv Dworzak

Loy Buley

Andy Anderson

Jerry Peterson

Mr. Dworzak, Buley and Anderson Graciously declined. Jerry Peterson was unanimously elected and accepted to serve the membership.

Sec/Treas---- Frenchy Stierlen was nominated and unanimously elected and accepted to serve the membership.

NEW BUSINESS

1. It was proposed to increase the annual dues from \$10.00 to \$12.00 or \$15.00.. By a majority vote of the membership Annual Dues were raised to \$12.00 a year starting in the year of 2002. Dues are due in the month of January .

2. Association Web-site A member proposed that the Association look at ways to support Woody Baldrige, current Webmaster, with either money or manpower, Whitey Richardson volunteered to assist Woody with the Web-site..

3. Whity Richardson proposed changing the name of the "Order of the Red Rose" Award to the "Glenn R. Schaffer Award" to honor the shipmate who founded the USS Gregory Assoc. A nomination to do so was made on the floor and the membership vote in favor of this change. With the exception that the Family of Glenn R. Schaffer , be notified and their permission be granted.

4. Walt Neumann led the association in an appreciation acclamation for the current reunion planning committee.

Motion to adjourn meeting was accepted and passed at 6:40 pm on this date.