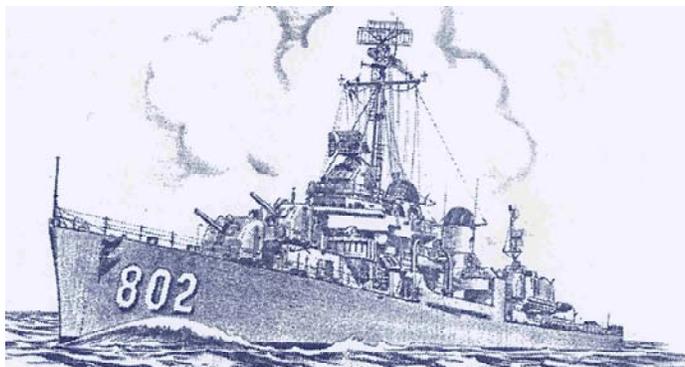


# USS GREGORY DD 802

## Newsletter January 2014



### **FROM THE BRIDGE**

#### **President's Report**

Walt Neumann

The holiday season has come and gone and to all shipmates, family and friends of the USS Gregory Association I wish you all a belated Merry Christmas and Happy Healthy New Year. It is the time of year to give thanks for all the blessings bestowed on us and our families. We should take a moment to give thanks to and pray for our troops in harms way and for their safe return home. Also in our thoughts and prayers are those who are battling health issues and shipmates who have passed on to be with the others who set sail before them.

Last year we held our reunion in Portland, Oregon. All who attended had a great time. If you have not attended one of these events or have not attended one in a while, you are missing a wonderful experience with ex-shipmates and survivors of shipmates.

Ron Ludolph, our Association Vice-President, set up a great sightseeing experiences in the Portland area, including a visit to a winery to test some of Oregon's liquid refreshments. I would bet that the next reunion's sightseeing will be even better.

Our next reunion will be held in St. Louis, Mo. The dates have not been finalized as of this time but will be in the May/June 2015 timeframe. Make sure you pencil a note on your calendar and join us in the fun and camaraderie that always are present at these events.

If anyone has ideas on how to increase the USS Gregory Reunion participation, please contact me or any other Association Officer.

Thanks again to Ron Ludolph, our Vice-president, who put together multiple fun filled sightseeing packages and lodging in Portland. Ron, we all appreciate the time spent putting these events together and your dedication to our Association.

All the best and God Bless.

Walt Neumann

Email: [greycat1@hughes.net](mailto:greycat1@hughes.net)

Telephone: 707-262-0376

## **VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Ron Ludolph

It was great seeing everyone in Portland. Hope everyone had a good time. I have made contact with a couple of different groups such as Armed Forces Reunions and Together We Served. These groups have been organizing Reunions for years. Hopefully they will be able to help me in organizing our next Reunion in St. Louis.

Best wishes to all for a Happy & Healthy 2014!

Ron Ludolph

[Rondot83@gmail.com](mailto:Rondot83@gmail.com)

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Ken Boyer**

New Year's greeting from cold and snowy Minnesota! We hope you all had an enjoyable holiday season. The USS Gregory Association membership for 2013 was down a little but we did add a few new members last year. Our total membership for the year is 84 which includes spouses/family who are members. We would like to see this number increase for 2014 so if you know of someone who would be interested in joining or re-joining the Association, please let us know. Ron and Dorothy Ludolph organized a great reunion in Portland, Oregon. The hotel, tours and banquet were great – weather not so much!! But the five days of rain didn't dampen the spirits of the 37 attendees and a good time was had by all. The Ludolphs are in the throes of organizing the next Reunion which will be in St. Louis, Missouri, in the Spring of 2015 – please make plans to attend – more information will follow later this year. Due to the passing in August of newsletter editor Bud Collier, Don Gappa volunteered to take on the responsibility of editing the newsletter. At the reunion it was decided to send out the newsletter by e-mail to save cost for the Association. We have contacted all those for whom we have

current e-mail addresses and the response has been very positive. If you have not been contacted and you want the newsletter via e-mail, please send your current e-mail address to [gloriab13@usfamily.net](mailto:gloriab13@usfamily.net). Please fill out the form and send in your 2014 membership dues as soon as possible. Dues are \$12 per year (\$15 after March 1<sup>st</sup>). Remember, spouses and children are eligible to be members. Hope everyone has a healthy and happy 2014.

Ken Boyer (& Gloria)  
Phone (651) 633-6247

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Bill Laing**

USS Gregory accounts for 2013

Supplies, newsletters ---	\$710.94
Website cost ----	\$325.00
2013 reunion cost ---	\$5822.76
Total Disbursements ---	\$6858.70
Beginning Cash 12/31/12---	\$4370.23
2013 reunion receipts ---	\$6515.00
Net fund raising	
Since 12/31/2012 ----	\$2338.58
Total receipts ----	\$13224.08
Cash on hand ----	\$6365.38

Bill Laing  
[wlaing@wowway.com](mailto:wlaing@wowway.com)

## **SHIP'S STORE REPORT**

**Ed Richardson**

**I am finishing up the ship store activities for 2013. I reordered 12 watch caps for**

**stock and still have on hand 9 billed caps. We made a small profit for the Association last year. The ship's officers agreed with me that we did not need to make a large profit on the ship store activities, just enough to cover basic cost plus shipping. As we come up with new items we will notify the members and buy just enough to fill their request. If anyone has an idea for a new product please let me know.**

**Ed Richardson**

**[Edrich294@gmail.com](mailto:Edrich294@gmail.com)**

## **SHIP MATES THEN AND NOW**

**Don Gappa & Harry H. Johnsen**

During the Association meeting held at the last reunion in Portland, we talked about ways to generate more interest in the Association, one way we came up with was to feature one of the members of the Association in the newsletter. I asked for anyone who would be willing to put himself out there first to let me know and send me their information about being on the Gregory and what they did after they got out of the Navy. I am happy to say that Harry Johnsen stepped forward to be the first one in the newsletter. After members read what Harry sent in I hope others will send me their information for future publications. The following is from Harry:

My name is Harry H. Johnsen. I served on the Gregory from October 1956 to July 1959 as a Seaman in First Division Deck Force and maintained the Bosen Locker my last eighteen months on the ship.

The following are some of my memories from my time on the Gregory.

In 1957, my watch station at sea was Starboard Look Out, until one night I was told to report to the Captain on the bridge. The Captain told me he had found the Helmsman asleep at the helm and the XO asleep in his chair on the port wing. So I replaced the 3<sup>rd</sup> class at the helm and he replaced me as Starboard Look out as our permanent watch stations.

In 1958, we were off the island of Quemoy, Taiwan and we had war correspondents aboard. We manned our battle stations daily for several days escorting supply boats taking cargo ashore. One boat was hit and sank and I was called to man the Starboard net and helped pull two men from the water.

In 1959, when in port, my watch was running the Liberty boat. I remember one night, going into fleet landing in San Diego, as I was pulling into the dock, the pin on the shifting lever broke when I put the boat in reverse and went under the pier. Everyone hit

the deck. Luckily no one was hurt.

I love to go to sea and wished I had stayed in the Navy, but I have no regrets.

Shortly after I left the Navy, I married my childhood sweetheart and together we had a son. From my son, I have four grandchildren and one great grandchild. I became a carpenter as a trade, worked construction, then went to work as a maintenance Carpenter for Philco-Ford. After 6 years there, I went to work for Watkins/Johnson Company. There the maintenance Department was comprised of many departments. I started in a shop called Equipment Construction Building Vacuum Systems, Special Oven and other equipment for making the products. From there, I advanced in the department, taking charge of all the shops, and advancing to Plant Engineer, I retired at the age of 59, after 33 ½ years with the company.

My wife and I divorced after 29 years. For the past 28 years, I have shared my life with my beloved Ann. These days, Ann and I travel when we can, and together have taken several cruises all over the world. I, myself have taken several trips to many countries on container ships as a passenger. I also have a sailboat, one of many over the years, and enjoy sailing the San Francisco Bay and Delta area. Also along with my brother I've motored the coast of California all the way to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

### **Harry H. Johnsen**

Again, I would like to say thanks to Harry for stepping up and letting everyone know what he has been up to in his life. It is always fun to read about what shipmates have done in their lives after the Navy. I believe it's short stories like Harry's that bring us all back together, like we were when we were shipmates aboard the Gregory. I know it takes some effort to take the time to stay in contact with the shipmates you served with, but the rewards are worth it. I know for my wife and I, it has been a pleasure to keep in contact with the "Old" Radar gang from my time on the Gregory. It's been well over 50+ years and we all still enjoy our get togethers. Now I just need another shipmate to step forward and send me something to put in the next newsletter.

We just received information that Plank Owner Bill Bletso has serious health issues and is in hospice at his home. Thoughts and prayers for Bill and his wife Martha at this time.

On the next page are pictures of Harry and as you can see, he's the same "old" Harry. He hasn't changed at all!



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**USS GREGORY DD-802 ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**SHIPMATE MEMBERSHIP FORM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATES SERVED ON THE GREGORY: FROM \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_  
 LAST RATE (MM, BM, GM, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

**SPOUSE OR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP FORM**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 RELATIONSHIP TO SHIPMATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 FORMER SHIPMATE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**DUES:** \$12.00 (\$15.00 after March 1<sup>st</sup>) per year.  
**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:** USS Gregory DD-802 Association, Inc.

If you wish to contribute to the Association Operating fund, you may add that to your dues check or you can write a separate check. Any amount is appreciated.

**SEND DUES AND THIS COMPLETED FORM TO:**

Ken Boyer - Secretary  
 USS Gregory DD-802 Association, Inc.  
 2579 Aldine Street  
 Roseville MN 55113  
 (651) 633-6247