

USS GREGORY DD 802 NEWSLETTER JAN.2016

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. I would like us to also include Peace Officers, Firefighters, Paramedics, EMT's and other emergency support personnel in our prayers.

Our next ship's reunion will be held in Pensacola, FL. In October 2016. Make sure you pencil a note on your calendar and join us in the fun and camaraderie that always are present at these events. Check the other articles in this newsletter for more information. Our new Association Vice-President, Loy Buley is setting up great sightseeing experiences, a hospitality room and a reasonable

priced lodging.

Ed Richardson has restocked our ships store with new items including license plate holders honoring the USS Gregory as well as ball caps, watch caps, shirts jackets, coffee cups, etc.. Be sure to check it out.

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

I am looking forward to seeing you at the October reunion.

All the best and God Bless.

Walt Neumann

Email: greycat1@hughes.net

Telephone: 707-262-0376

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Ken Boyer

Season's Greetings to all from Minnesota! We hope you've had a good year and will have a good 2016. The USS Gregory reunion in St. Louis in May was another successful one – thanks to Ron and Dorothy Ludolph for organizing it. Ron resigned as Vice President of the Association and Loy Buley graciously accepted the position. All the other officers were returned to their offices: Walt Neumann, President; Ken Boyer, Secretary; Bill Laing, Treasurer; Ed Richardson, Ship's Store; and Don Gappa, Newsletter. Loy and his wife Kathy have already set up the next

Reunion for **October 9 -13, 2016** in Pensacola, Florida. Save the dates and plan to attend! More information and sign-up sheets will be sent out in the Spring/Summer and also will be posted on the Website. Speaking of the Website, check it out – it is in the process of being updated and with a new format. Our membership is down again this year. Encourage your shipmates to join – spouses and children are also welcome to become members. We have lost three members recently – John Richter died June 2nd, John Nolte died on September 14th and Jim Williams died on November 15th. The daughter of Plank Owner Ken Williams has gotten in touch with a couple of members (Ron & Ken) and recently donated several pictures and other memorabilia to the Association which we hope to be able to bring to the Pensacola reunion. Ken and his wife Anne now reside in a nursing home in New Jersey.

If anyone who attended the 1993 Reunion in Charleston, S.C. has any information and/or pictures from that reunion, please send it to Ken Boyer (Secretary) at gloriab13@usfamily.net or Jay Olexy (webmaster) at jpole3@aol.com, so it can be added to the website.

Happy New Year to all!

Ken Boyer (& Gloria)
Phone (651) 633-6247
Gloriab13@usfamily.net

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bill Laing

USS Gregory accounts for 2015

Supplies, newsletters ---	\$501.86
Website cost ----	\$775.00
Ship's Store ---	\$716.31
2015 reunion cost ---	\$5538.41

Total Disbursements --- \$7531.41

Beginning Cash 12/31/14---	\$5258.24
2015 reunion receipts ---	\$5258.24
Net fund raising	
Since 12/31/2014 ----	\$1333.71

Total receipts ---- \$12,222.95

Cash on hand ---- \$4691.37

Bill Laing

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

Heartland Honor Flight

Dick (Jonny) Johnson

Shipmates and Friends,
My wife and I went to an informational meeting for finances at a senior housing center near our home in Lee's Summit, MO, about a year and a half ago. While there, some of the Veterans were encouraging Vets to sign up for the Heartland Honor Flight. They had been to Washington, D.C. on one of these flights. Well about a year after signing up, I called as to the status of where I was on the list of Veterans going. I was told that the World War II Vets were to be the first served, but I would be put on standby.

I was then instructed that I would need to go to an informational meeting explaining what and how this flight takes place. It took place about 2 weeks before the flight. It was very informative. At this meeting there were many World War II Vets in attendance. Each Veteran had someone (guardian) to help and see about their welfare during this long day's journey.

I was called to replace a World War II Marine who had fallen and broke his hip. This was 3 days before the trip. I was excited to go and see these Monuments and meet other Vets.

We arrived at Kansas City International

Airport at 5:00 a.m. on Oct. 6th. After some training as to what was going to happen, we left about 6:30 a.m. on a chartered flight to Ronald Reagan Airport in D.C. There were about 200 people on the flight – 90 Veterans and the rest were guardians and staff and helpers. There were many wheelchairs available for those in need.

We landed after the 2 – hour flight and disembarked to a band playing 50's music. So much excitement from the small group of well wishers who greeted us. We boarded 1 of 3 buses and with a police escort started on our tour. During the day we made friends with all the fellows and girls on our bus. There were several WW II women Vets in attendance. As we went to each monument, we got on the buses and traveled to the next monument. This helped to keep the walking down to a minimum. In between times we were fed delicious box lunches and snacks.

We visited the World War II, Korean, Vietnam, and Air Force Memorials. At the Monument to the Raising of the Flag on Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima, I met a Marine who was at the raising of the flag and got to shake his hand. He was in a wheelchair, but was very sharp. We saw the changing of the guard at Arlington Cemetery. It was quite a memory to be there in person.

When we returned to the Ronald Reagan Airport, a band greeted us with music and ladies who wanted us to dance with them. It's neat to see 80 – 90 year olds jitterbugging and kicking up their heels.

Was a fun way to end the day!

On the way home, we had Mail Call. We each received well wishes from family, friends, and school children. The teachers in some schools had given an assignment to students to write to these Vets who had given much to their country in their younger years. Some were so neat and well thought out. This Winter I will answer some of them.

We received food all day long in Box Lunches from Arby's. It was the best trip that I ever made, but tiring. We did not get back to KC until 10:00 p.m.

When we entered the halls of Terminal C on our return, we were met with the largest crowd of well wishers imaginable. Bagpipers, Music, the Flags, Military Personnel, Guardsmen, Police, Families, Children with Signs, Balloons, Smiles, Hugs and Joy. There were probably over a 1,000 people waiting to greet us. In talking to some of the well wishers, they all had a story of their pride in someone in their family who had served in the military. Proud to be Americans!!!

It was a great, but tiring day for older folks. I wouldn't have missed it for the world!

Thanks, your Shipmate,
Dick (Jonny) Johnson
P.S. Looking forward to the Florida Reunion !!

**Memories from Paul Lebowitz by
Jerry Lebowitz**

Paul Lebowitz joined the US Navy at age 17 in February 1944 before graduating high school (he later went back to get his high school diploma). He attended boot camp in Farragut, Idaho. After boot camp, he was assigned to the Navy base at Treasure Island, California on San Francisco Bay. Paul was then sent to Bremerton, Washington. He was present when the USS Gregory was commissioned. The initial voyage of the USS Gregory was to San Diego on a shakedown cruise. From San Diego, the USS Gregory went to Saipan and Tinian in the Northern Mariana Islands, where the fleet was assembled for the invasion of Iwo Jima. The USS Gregory supported the invasion of Iwo Jima by transporting Marines. The USS Gregory knocked out tanks and trucks on the island. While leaving Iwo Jima (near Chi Chi Jima), three air force pilots were rescued from a rubber raft by the USS Gregory crew. While rescuing the pilots, the USS Gregory was shot at but was not hit due to a smoke screen. The ship then zig zagged at top speed out of the area.

The USS Gregory then went on to Okinawa. On picket patrol between Okinawa and Formosa (now Taiwan), the USS Gregory encountered Kamikaze pilots every day. After three days, a plane exploded next to the USS Gregory making the ship "dead in the water". The ship was then towed to an anchorage for repairs and went back to a San Diego destroyer base. While getting additional repairs in San Diego, the US dropped the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki thus ending World War II.

After his stay in San Diego, Paul was transferred to a small patrol craft at the Navy's Camp Shoemaker (near San Francisco). He was honorably discharged at the Chicago Naval base in March 1946 at age 19.

Paul's main responsibility on the USS Gregory was being a signal man. This task included being a sight scatter on a 5 inch 38 gun.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Loy Buley

Plans are being made for the USS Gregory Reunion October 9-13, 2016 in Pensacola Florida. The hotel will be selected soon. The itinerary will be changed a bit this year - there will be a tour on Monday, a free day on Tuesday and we will go to the Blue Angels practice on Wednesday. The meeting will be Tuesday evening and the banquet on Wednesday evening. Sign-up sheets will be included in the Summer newsletter and also on the website.

Loy Buley

Email: LoyLBuley@sbcglobal.net

Telephone: (512) 258-7465

ATTENTION:

Two of the officers of the USS Gregory Association have tendered their resignation as of the next Reunion. Both have been in their positions for a long time. Ken Boyer has been Secretary for six years and Bill Laing has been Treasurer for over 12 years. In order for the Association to continue, we will need to have replacements by the next Reunion. Hopefully someone will step up and volunteer to fill these positions. If you would be willing to take a position of either Secretary or Treasurer, please contact Walt Neumann before the Reunion in October (especially if you will not be able to attend the Reunion) so we can arrange for the turnovers. If you have specific questions about either position, you can contact Ken or Bill directly.

Walt Neumann (707) 262-0376

Ken Boyer (651) 633-6247

Bill Laing (630) 858-2076

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 1st) per year.

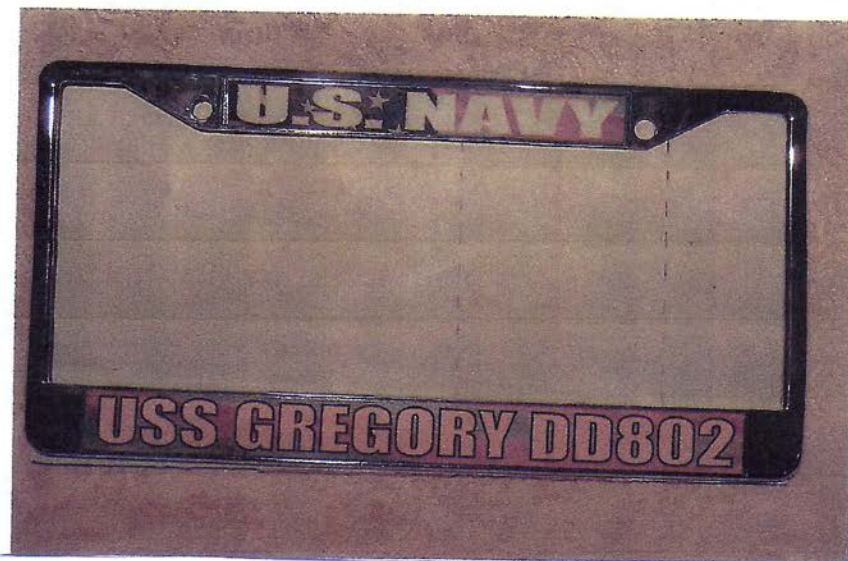
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: USS Gregory DD-802 Association, Inc.

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





License plate frame cost + shipping

1 frame \$11.00 + \$5.00 shipping = \$16.00 total

2 frames \$22.00 + \$11.00 shipping = \$33.00 total

Checks should be made out to Ed Richardson. The plates will also be available at the reunion in Pensacola, FL..