



## U.S.S. GEARING (DD-710) ASSOCIATION, Inc.

NEWSLETTER # 1-11 03-07-11

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Shortly after the 2010 reunion I wanted to take advantage of the difficult economy in the Greater Tampa Bay area and try to lock in 2010 prices for the 2012 reunion. On Thursday, May 27, 2010 Ken Baker, his wife Pam, Cindy Campbell of Campbell Travel and I met with representatives of the Crowne Plaza Tampa Westshore Hotel.

We toured the hotel, looked at the available rooms for the banquet, hospitality, meetings, and the sleeping rooms. We were impressed with the cleanliness of the facility and the spaciousness of the sleeping rooms. Most of all, we were impressed with the price. Room rates will be \$85.00 per night plus applicable tax. This is very close to the same price we paid in Charleston, SC. Tampa secured the 2012 Republican Convention and consequently, room rates will go up significantly next year.

In addition to the regular rooms poolside cabana rooms and executive rooms on the top floor of the hotel are available for those interested in upgrading. The hotel indicated they would consider a discounted upgrade price and Cindy will work with the hotel to have a price established in the near future.

The hotel is minutes away from Tampa International Airport and has a free shuttle. The shuttle also takes hotel guests to and from Westshore Plaza and International Plaza for those who want to shop.

We booked the hotel for Thursday, April 26-29, 2012. For those who are Priority Club members or who signed up as Priority Club members in Charleston, you will earn points for your stay at the Crowne Plaza.

Rooms will be available at the group rates for three days before and three days after the reunion.

We will again offer a cruise after the reunion. It will be a five day cruise sailing from the Port of Tampa on April 30, 2012 and returning on May 5, 2012. Ports of call will be Grand Cayman in the Cayman Islands and Cozumel, Mexico. Inside cabins are \$459 per person and ocean view cabins are \$499 per person. These rates are based on double occupancy so if you are planning on sailing by yourself you might want to contact someone else who will be sailing alone to share a cabin. Otherwise it will be necessary to pay the double rate.

Cindy is going to check with Carnival Cruise Lines to see if she can also get a reduced rate on suites for those who want to upgrade.

While you cannot make hotel reservations now you **can** make cruise reservations now. A deposit of \$75 per person per cabin will secure a reservation for you. Cindy will allow cruisers to make partial payments between now and the deadline for full payment. For instance, if you make a \$175.00 deposit now, you can pay \$50.00 or \$100.00 a month (or any amount you want to pay) to Cindy up until 75 days before the cruise. Full payment is required 75 days prior to the cruise date.

You can email Cindy at [campbelltravel@cfl.rr.com](mailto:campbelltravel@cfl.rr.com) or call her at (386) 574-2379 for more information about the cruise or to make reservations.

Her website is <http://www.campbelltravelservices.com/>.

The Crowne Plaza Tampa Westshore Hotel website is <http://www.cptampawestshore.com/>.

For those who need to use their computers while at the reunion, wireless Internet is complimentary throughout the hotel.

In the near future the hotel will have a link with Cindy's website and there will be a link provided to the Gearing website so that with just a click of the mouse members will be able to navigate easily between the sites.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR VIETNAM VETERANS

Recently, the VA recognized a number of Brown Water (inland water ways) Navy vessels that are presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange.

The ships and dates of inland waterway service are listed below. If a veteran's service aboard one of these ships can be confirmed through military records during the time frames specified, then exposure to herbicide agents can be presumed without further development. All vessels of Inshore Fire Support [IFS] Division 93 during their entire Vietnam tour

USS Carronade (IFS 1)

USS Clarion River (LSMR 409) [Landing Ship, Medium, Rocket]

USS Francis River (LSMR 525)

USS White River (LSMR 536)

All vessels with the designation LST [Landing Ship, Tank] during their entire tour [WWII ships converted to transport supplies on rivers and serve as barracks for brown water Mobile Riverine Forces] All vessels with the designation LCVP [Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel] during their entire tour All vessels with the designation PCF [Patrol Craft, Fast] during their entire tour [Also called Swift Boats, operating for enemy interdiction on close coastal waters] All vessels with the designation PBR [Patrol Boat, River] during their entire tour [Also called River Patrol Boats as part of the Mobile Riverine Forces operating on inland waterways and featured in the Vietnam film "Apocalypse Now"]

USS Ingersoll (DD-652) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, October 24-25, 1965]

USS Mansfield (DD-728) Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River August 8-19, 1967 and December 21-24, 1968]

USS Richard E. Kraus (DD-849) [Destroyer] [Operated on coastal inlet north of Da Nang, June 2-5, 1966, protecting Marines holding a bridge]

USS Basilone (DD-824) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, May 24-25, 1966]

USS Hamner (DD-718) [Destroyer] [Operated on Song Lon Tao and Long Song Tao Rivers, August 15-September 1, 1966]

USS Conway (DD-507) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, early August 1966]

USS Fiske (DD-842) [Destroyer] [Operated on Mekong River, June 16-21, 1966]

USS Black (DD-666) [Destroyer] [Operated on Saigon River, July 13-19, 1966]

USS Providence (CLG-6) [Cruiser, Light, Guided Missile] [Operated on Saigon River 3 days during January 1964]

USS Mahan (DLG-11) [Guided Missile Frigate] [Operated on Saigon River October 24-28, 1964]

USS Okanogan (APA-220) [Attack Transport] [Operated on Saigon River July 22-23, 29-30, 1968 and August 5-6, 1968]  
USS Niagara Falls (AFS-3) [Combat Stores Ship] [Unloaded supplies on Saigon River and Cam Rahn Bay, April 22-25, 1968]  
If you or anyone you know served on these ships in Vietnam and have any of the conditions that are presumptively connected to exposure to Agent Orange, you are eligible for medical treatment and disability benefits from the VA. The significance of the term presumptive is you do not have to prove scientifically or medically that your condition is connected to Agent Orange exposure and do not have to prove conclusively that you were exposed to Agent Orange.

Until recently, any service person who could prove he was "boots on the ground" in Vietnam was considered by the VA to be exposed to Agent Orange. This presumption did not hold for Navy veterans known to be Blue Navy. With this list of Brown Water vessels, the same presumption of exposure now applies. The VA has also added three new conditions that are presumed to be caused by exposure to Agent Orange. They are hairy cell leukemia, Parkinson's disease, and ischemic heart disease. If you served in Vietnam and have any of these three new conditions you should file a claim for benefits as soon as possible.

### ***GET WELL & SYMPATHY CARD PROGRAM***

**Please send all sickness and death information to our Chaplain, whose address is at the end of each newsletter, so that we can publish it and remember your loved ones and our shipmates.**

### ***ILL***

Please keep the following shipmates and their loved ones in your prayers for a speedy recovery.

Steven V. Ferguson MM3 56-59  
Charlene, wife of Bob Perreault QM3 64-66  
Rose, wife of Buck O'Connor GMG2 60-61

### ***DEPARTED SHIPMATES***

In your prayer, remember the following crew and family members who are no longer with us bodily but will never be forgotten by their loved ones.

Daniel W. Vassily QMSN 62-65  
Richard E. Turner TM3 51-55  
Edward J. Mead SK3 59-60  
Glenn B. Hopper LTJG 49-50  
Dale Hopper, wife of Glenn B. Hopper LTJG 49-50  
Ruby, widow of John W. Buchanan HMC 56-57  
James M. Lunny ET2 46-48  
Barbara Lunny, wife of James M. Lunny ET2 46-48  
Arthur L. Jackson RD2 45  
Betty, wife of Richard L. Smith S2C 45-46  
Katherine, widow of Howard E. Niebergall FICMM 45  
Mary, wife of Edward J. Hinz QM1 47-48  
Robert S. VanDerbeck S1C 45-46  
Leonard M. Todd LT 45-46  
Simon J. Czarniak EM1 45-46  
Eddie, son of Bob & Patty Calhoun MM3 55-59  
Fredrick A. Miller FT2 55-59  
Malcolm G. O'Brien RD3 48-52  
James f. Hollingsworth BT3 62-64

### ***THANKS***

We would like to thank the following people who have made a donation to our Association. We appreciate their generosity.

Dave Petrie SN 56-58  
Randolph G. Smith Jr PN1 64-67  
Matthew S. Procelli S2C 45-46  
Gary R. Urquhart SN 51-55  
Henry R. DeSoto BM3 45-46  
Darrell L. Keene MM3 52-56  
Perry S. Benson ENS 60-61  
Dorothy (Allan B.) Paul DC1 57-60  
William F. Mueller BT2 50-54  
Robert H. Kilpatrick GMG1 57-63  
Richard L. Smith S2C 45-46  
Richard A. Durante MM3 51-54  
Anthony M. Gates RM2 46-49  
Frank W. Goetschius LTJG 63-65  
John J. Slovack Jr BTG2 51-55  
Charles H. Adamo RM3 60-63  
Samuel D. Pappas Jr GMG3 54-58  
Anthony P. Sullivan S1C 45-46  
Richard White EN2 52-54  
Paul Z. Cummins II CDR 65-66  
Donald R. Hilaman FTSN 52-54  
Don Ray Smith BT3 58-61  
John W. Latta PC3 65-67  
Thomas A. Turner III GMSN 65-67  
Marjorie (William A.) Erickson BM2 47-52  
Dot (Fred W.) Hoffman BT2 48-52  
Gerald Leroy Casey GMG3 60-62  
William F. 'Buck' O'Connor GMG2 60-61  
John H. Gilbert SM3 64-65  
Michael Boggi Jr MM3 59-60  
Lillian (Paul A.) Lodwick RD2 45  
R. Michael Mett LT 62-65  
William T. Druhan Jr. FTG3 66-69  
Hugh Humphreys LTJG 55-57  
Gerald Leroy Casey GMG3 60-62  
Beverly Trowbridge, wife of Malcolm Trowbridge Jr ENS 45-46  
James R. Kincaid ET1 68-72  
William F. Mueller BT2 50-54

### ***GEARING ASSOCIATION TODAY***

At the end of 2010, we have 860 names on our mailing list. There were a total of 269 dues paying members, 82 Honorary members, and 7 Life members. Life membership is currently presented to past Association Chairmen only. ***Only dues paying members will receive newsletters.***

### ***WEB PAGE***

Visit our Gearing Web Pages; they are loaded with lots of Gearing information. If you have an E-Mail address, send it to me and I will add it to our E-Mail address list on the Web Page.

The pages can be reached by entering any of the following URL's; they are all linked together so you can get to both of them from either URL listed below:

<http://www.DD710.com>  
<http://dd710.proflyersinc.com>  
<http://hstrial-gjones625.homestead.com/>

## ***AT THE 2010 CHARLESTON REUNION***

Our Twenty-Third Annual Reunion in Charleston, South Carolina began on Thursday 11 March. It was held at the Holiday Inn Charleston-Mt. Pleasant Hotel. Lee Gilbert QMSN 62-64 was the host. Registration started at 1500. All crewmembers attending received a packet containing reunion info. After registration, all gathered in our hospitality room to get re-acquainted with old shipmates and to meet new shipmates.

At 1800, our Board of Directors meeting, chaired by Leo Dougherty, was held. In attendance were Bob Calhoun, Harold Hollifield, Jerry Casey, Dan Donohue, Carl Lloyd, Dave Petrie, and Bob Witkowski. Item for our Annual Business meeting were discussed.

On Friday, 12 March, we boarded buses at 1000 for our Historic Charleston tour. After the tour we were dropped off at the Old City Market, for lunch on your own, shopping and browsing. At 1430 our buses picked us up for our tour of the Citadel. Our Memorial Service was held at the Citadel Chapel. A list of Departed shipmates was remembered at the service. Departed wives and family members were also remembered. A special section of seats was set up on the field so that our Association could view the Citadel Parade. It was an impressive view of cadets, bands and Honor Guards. We then boarded buses to head back to our hotel where we had dinner on our own.

Our Ladies Auction started at 2000. Many shipmates made and bought items that were auctioned off to raise monies for our Association. Carl Lloyd, RM3 45-46, was once again our Auctioneer, and did a wonderful job of getting the items auctioned off and entertaining our crew while doing so. A great time was had by all who attended.

On Saturday 13 March, Chairman, Leo Dougherty (RM2 67-68) opened our Business Meeting at 1000. Leo called upon Jerry Casey (GMG3 60-62) to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Leo called upon Harold Hollifield (MM3 55-58) to lead us in prayer. Leo announced that Harold has been appointed Chaplain. Harold asked that if anyone didn't approve of his appointment or would like to take over the position to please let the officers know.

Leo called for the Secretary's report, Bob Witkowski (FTG3 65-66), reported that he received two e-mails. One from Bob Perreault (QM3 64-66), saying that his wife, Charlene, was in the hospital and that they wouldn't be able to attend the reunion this year. The other e-mail was from Paul Althouse (LTJG 64-66) who reported that he broke his femur and wouldn't be able to attend this year. Bob reported that he had the minutes from the last reunion if anyone wanted them read. A motion not to read the minutes was approved as they appeared in the last newsletter. Bob reported that as approved at the last reunion, reunion notices were no longer sent to our entire membership. Shipmates who are Association members received the full reunion notice; shipmates who are not members only received a postcard with the dates of the reunion and a person to contact if they wanted more info. The reunion info is also available on our website for anyone to view and print a copy of it.

Leo now called on Treasurer, Dan Donohue (FTG3 65-66) for his report. Dan reported he just deposited the checks he received for the reunion and they are not included in these amounts. The checking account amount is \$18,282.06, the Common Market amount is \$5,296.62 and our 15 month CD amount is \$5,171.87. Dan reported that the auction last night made \$1,502.00. Dan thanked everyone that made or brought items to the auction, he reported that our auctions have also been a great success and help

with the cost of running our Association. Dan thanked, George Weber (FPG3 51-55) who has been our official reunion photographer for the past few years and has put together albums for the Association. A motion was passed to accept both the Secretary and Treasurer's reports.

Leo called upon the Audit Committee for their report. Ken Baker (ETN3 62-64) reported that himself and Wally Prince (DC3 56-58) found our records to be in order and that they be accepted. A motion was passed to accept the records as read.

Leo thanked our 2010 Reunion Chairman, Lee Gilbert (QMSN 62-64) for running a successful reunion. Leo thanked everyone who helped him make the reunion happen.

Leo reported that our 2011 Reunion Chairman, Buck O'Connor (GMG2 61-62) was in a recent auto accident and was not in attendance at this reunion. Buck had told Leo that nothing was in writing yet but the 2011 Reunion would be the first weekend in June in Flint, Michigan.

Leo reported that he would host the 2012 Reunion in Tampa, Florida and that no dates at been set yet.

Our 2013 will be hosted by Bob Harris (BT1 65-69) in Newport, Rhode Island. No dates have been confirmed yet.

A discussion was had as to the length of our reunions and why some were shorter and some were longer. It was mentioned that our reunion time always include our special room rate a few days before and after our official reunion dates for those who wish to arrive early or stay late.

Under Old Business, Leo brought up that we were going to try to put our newsletter online ONLY. Bob Witkowski reported that what he had done this year was to mail postcards out to NON-PAYING shipmates on our mailing list and the full newsletter to PAYING Association members. This saved our Treasury over \$1,000.00 between printing and postage. Bob reported that our newsletter is posted on our web site for anyone to view and it was also mailed to all Dues Paying members. Leo said that this is Our Newsletter and if anyone had anything they would like to relate to our other shipmates we would try to get it into our newsletter.

Board of Elections was next on our schedule. Leo thanked, Buck O'Connor (GMG2 60-61) and Wally Prince (DC3 56-58) our out going Directors for their service. Our new Board of Directors for the next three years are, David L. Murphy (SN 57-59) and Charles Letourneau (LTJG 64-65).

George Jones, (BM3 56-59), requested all members to send him their war stories so he can add them to his web page. It was suggested that members submit then and now pictures that we could post on our web page.

Dan Donohue thanked Simone (LeBourdais PHM1 44-45) Clement for her generous donation in memory of her late husband, Dave.

Herman Wing (RMC 58-59), reported that he had been on many ships and it is difficult for him to make every reunion.

Several members present suggested ways of contacting shipmates who are not on our mailing list to become members and attend reunions.

Jerry Casey (GMG3 60-62) reported that when he held the 2008 reunion in Albany, he contacted all of the Marines who were part of the Solant Amity cruise and invited them to Albany reunion. He said all were eager and looking forward to attending, but none of the Marines showed up.

Jack Cole (QM2 70-72) informed us of a event, that happened will he was aboard Gearing, in Monaco and that others should convey their thoughts of Gearing life when they were aboard.

Joe Dent, (BT3 55-59), thanked Lee Gilbert (QMSN 62-64) and his wife, Becky for hosting this successful reunion in South Carolina.

First time reunion attendees introduced themselves: Frank Goetschius (LTJG 63-65), Charles Letournea (LTJG 64-65), Bill Latta (PC3 65-67), and Paul Cuny (EM2 59-62).

Bob Witkowski announced new Five-Year members (5), Ten-Year members (15), Fifteen-Year members (17), and Twenty-Year members (12). Pins were presented to those in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned. All dues paying members were given a souvenir Gearing penholder.

At 1800 our cocktail hour and a cash bar commenced. We enjoyed a delicious banquet and were entertained by "The Lynette White Plantations Singers" afterwards.

On Sunday, 14 March we said our good-byes and started to plan for our 2011 Flint Michigan Reunion.

### **MAIL CALL**

23 January 2010

My Rate was: EN2 I was aboard: 52-54

Received newsletter this date, really a fine publication. I do not have a computer, so I request to remain on you mailing list. Due to anticipated surgery, I'll not be able to attend the March reunion. Dick White from NY

25 January 2010

Check out this book written by Gearing Shipmate Edward J. Hinz QM1 47-48.

The USS Blessman and I

A memoir of shipboard life during World War II. As a memoir of shipboard life during World War II, the story is an accurate depiction of life aboard a combat vessel during the invasions of Normandy, Lingayen Gulf in the Philippines, Iwo Jima, and landing in Wakayama, Japan. From escorting convoys crossing the Atlantic and working with Under Water Demolition Team UDT15 now called 'Seals', in the Pacific, the USS Blessman survived a 500 pound bomb blast at Iwo Jima. After limping to Mare Island for repairs, she sailed at full speed carrying UDT-17 team to join forces landing on Japan soil. The author is a WWII combat veteran who lives on Long Island, NY. He enlisted in the regular Navy for six years for a Musician's rating but was destined to serve as a Quartermaster aboard the USS Blessman DE69/APD48 crossing the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans numerous times. He participated in the landings at Normandy, Lingayen Gulf and Iwo Jima. He also wrote Devious Intent, a novel that has nothing of war or the military, only the results of an active imagination.

ISBN13 Hardcover: 978-1-4257-8630-4

ISBN13 Soft cover: 978-1-4257-8611-3

27 January 2010

Just wanted to let you know that I will not be able to attend the reunion in March. My side-kick and traveling companion, Kelley, cannot get the time off from work and I have some obligations also. March is not a good month for us. I thought you might like to know that Meals on Wheels has honored Allen by giving out an award in his name each year to the volunteer who gives time and interest as Allen did. I was asked to write a description of Allen and explain the type of man he was. I did a lot of crying while writing and I knew I could not read it at the luncheon, so the manager read it. Almost the entire family was able to attend, it was a very special occasion. Take care now, I will miss seeing everyone. Hopefully we can make it next year.

Louise (Allen S.) Jefferis CDR 69-70 from CA

30 January 2010

My Rank was: LCDR I was aboard: 57-59

As your records may show, I served as Executive Officer of the USS Gearing some fifty plus years ago from November 1957 to August 1959, operating out of Norfolk. Two memories stand out: an Atlantic crossing when our ship was tossed about by a severe storm and we ran perilously low on fuel, and an unfortunate collision with a merchantman as we returned to Norfolk from a post-overhaul shakedown cruise. This was early in the morning, and several of us were jolted out of our bunks. Happily, there were no injuries, and our well-respected Captain Hankey was essentially exonerated. I left the active duty in 1963 to pursue a career in finance until retirement in 1995, fifteen years ago to the day. My wife Dorothy and I had a three year old son when I left the Gearing; we now have four children and six grandchildren. Dorothy and I enjoy good health and remain active in our church and community; family visits take us regularly to Charlottesville, VA, Reisterstown, MD, Cambridge, MA, and Hilo, Hawaii. I'm happy to support the efforts to maintain USS Gearing connections. I'm not able to join in the reunion this year, but I'd enjoy hearing from guys who shared shipboard life with me.

Gene Mulligan from VA

30 January 2010

My Rate was: PC2 I was aboard: 68-70

We are not able to make it for the reunion. Give everyone our love.

Ron and Myriam Elwell from VT

01 February 2010

My father, Robert S. VanDerbeck S1C 45-46, died on 19 September 2009 of lung cancer, he was very brave. He loved talking about the Navy and the Army all the time. He always said I should of stayed in the Navy all my life. God Bless you.

Marilyn Richardson, his daughter

01 February 2010

My Rate was: PN1 I was aboard: 64-67

Thank you for all you do to keep the Association going.

Randolph G. Smith Jr from NC

03 February 2010

I will not be attending the reunion this year.

Dorothy (Allan B.) Paul DC1 57-60 from NC

08 February 2010

My Rate was: SO3 I was aboard: 52-54

It has been a long time since I have been around. I can't come to the reunion because of my commitment to my grandson. I want to be there. I found a shipmate, Larry Drake. Love to my shipmates.

Bob Economou from OH

19 February 2010

**E-MAIL** from: POKN38@aol.com

My Rank was: LT I was aboard: 70

Served as Navigation Department Head during InSurv Inspection in the Fall of 1970.

R. E. (Pete) Kenyon III from CT

26 February 2010

**E-MAIL** from: andacat@netzero.com

My Rate was - SH2 I was aboard: 69-71

Trying to find old members, ship's barber.

Jim Smith from LA

27 February 2010

My Rank was – Midship I was aboard: 1960

My senior year midshipman cruise(midshipman first class) from the Naval Academy was on the Gearing July-August 1960 in Charleston with a cruise to San Juan for gunnery exercises. After graduation I served six years in nuclear submarines and then 16 years in the Naval Reserve retiring as a captain.

Larry Drake from OH

15 March 2010

**E-MAIL** from: sletour@hotmail.com

My Rank was - CDR I was aboard: 64-65

We cross-decked to Gearing after USS Decatur was run over by Lake Champlain in May 1964. Stayed aboard USS Gearing during DOMREP operations. Transferred to USS N.K. Perry prior to Med trip in 1965 (when Commodore Carter was lost at sea off Bermuda in ?Aug 1965?) and the N.K. Perry collided with USS Shangra La in ?Sept 1965? outside of Naples, Italy, after the replacement Commodore (Captain Britner) had embarked a few days before in Naples as the new Commander of COMDESRON Twenty.

Charlie Letourneau from NC

28 March 2010

**E-MAIL** from: WWWJAW@aol.com

My Rate was – RD3 I was aboard:47-48

Enjoyed my time aboard the Gearing. Any one from this time period in my area?

William W. Worrall from IL

31 March 2010

**E-MAIL** from: georgecope@hotmail.com

My Rate was – ME2 I was aboard:55-58

Never forgot the great times and the people I served with. I ended up 4 yrs USNR and 28 yrs Maine ARNG.

George L Copeland from FL

31 March 2010

**E-MAIL** from: cmaltese@lavabit.com

Hoping that this message finds you well. I was looking on the Departed Shipmates page and saw that my dad's info was missing.

He was Leonard V. Maltese EM3 51-55. Thanks,

Chris Maltese

04 April 2010

**E-MAIL** from: kbaker4640@aol.com

My Rate was – ETN3 I was aboard:62-64

Pam and I had a great time at the reunion in Charleston. We are going to Ohio in June and will try to contact Buck about the 2011 reunion. I finally put the 2009 reunion on a DVD and I would be glad to send you one for the archives if you want. I got a call from Bob Horton (45-49) last week and he asked about some of the ships logs so I referred him to you. He said he was a member of the Association but he was not on the mailing list. Also, Lucy Kennelly called last week and she doesn't have a computer so she requests any computer newsletters and reunion notices be mailed to her and Bill.

Ken Baker from FL

04 April 2010

**E-MAIL** from: kbaker4640@aol.com

My Rate was – ETN3 I was aboard:62-64

I received a call from Bill Young today and he was inquiring about the 2010 Gearing reunion and I told him he was 6 weeks late. He was a boatswain on the Gearing from 52-56 and lives in N.C. He is interested in joining the Association so I told him to call you. Take care.

Ken Baker from FL

07 May 2010

**E-MAIL** from: glnlarson@gmail.com

My Rate was – ET2 I was aboard: 69-70

I was on the Gearing during the 69 med cruise until the dry dock at Boston in 70.

Glen Larson from SD

10 May 2010

**E-MAIL** from: las@comcast.net

My Rate was – PC3 I was aboard: 65-67

Was working on my military years for my family history today and remembered something about my Navy days that might be of use to you on the website or in the newsletter. I don't think I had time in Charleston to tell you that all of the photos on the DVD video are available for use on the Gearing website. If you want to use any of them, they are free. Just let me know if you want them and I will create CD of the images for to you pick-and-choose from for Association use. And being a graphic designer, photographer, and illustrator by trade, I would be glad to help you and your wife to provide graphics, logos, and photos for the newsletter and/or website in support of the Association. On an additional note, I suggest you enlist Dan Donahue and Commander Letourneau to write some of the stories they shared at the reunion. They both are a hoot! And their stories would make great reading in the newsletter.

Bill Latta from TN

12 May 2010

My Rate was – MM3 I was aboard: 54-56

I recently had my slides converted to a DVD and got all excited at seeing some of these pictures from 1955-56. The Gearing Assoc. has provided some wonderful memories and maybe our shipmates will enjoy these. I believe this is the USS Forrestal Angle Deck Carrier on its maiden cruise and the Gearing doing plane guard. The first fliers to launch were Marines and after several near wrecks the Captain sent them back and asked for some Navy pilots. At least that's the story told us. The refueling was on our return from the Med in '55 and was said to be one of the first of its kind at sea.

Donald F. Ruggles from AL

18 May 2010

**E-MAIL** from: rico68182000@yahoo.com

I just wanted to let you know that Fredrick Anthony Miller FT2 55-59 passed away from mesothelioma on May 10, 2010 at 2:00 pm. He fought the cancer long and hard like any member of the Gearing would. Any questions can be directed to me. I am his son, and if you have any suggestions about where I can find a model kit of the Gearing.

Johnny Rico

26 May 2010 **E-MAIL** from: las@comcast.net  
My Rate was – PC3 I was aboard: 65-67  
An artist friend of mine shared this YouTube link with me. I think you might enjoy it also. The link is:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch\\_popup?v=H8rHarp1GEE](http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=H8rHarp1GEE)  
It is a video clip of a NASA astronaut leading an informal but very descriptive tour through the massive International Space Station. Although he does not identify himself, the astronaut is Navy Commander, Barry Wilmore. Barry was raised in Mount Juliet, TN. He is the son of Gene and Faye Wilmore of Mt. Juliet. He played football and graduated from Mt. Juliet High and then went on to TN Tech before serving in the Navy as a pilot in the first Gulf War. He is also a member of Hermitage Hills Baptist Church and recently led our Sunday morning service with a powerful message and stunning video. This video was shot for NASA on Barry's mission to the International Space Station aboard NASA's Space Shuttle. Barry's flight was the flight just prior to the one actually going on now. Hope you enjoy it as much as we did. The ISS is very impressive, though they might need to budget for a housekeeper.  
Bill Latta from TN

27 May 2010 **E-MAIL** from: gcirish@sbcglobal.net  
Bob, how do I get info. about joining the assoc. thanks  
George Cirish (YN2 Rescrew PA '70-71)

31 May 2010  
**E-MAIL** from: rico68182000@yahoo.com  
Thank you for putting my father's name on the Departed shipmates list. He was so proud to have served on the Gearing  
Braden Miller from AZ

07 June 2010  
Robert, I haven't emailed you for so long, am not sure you still have this email address, but a question asked of me concerning my husband's naval training came up. Perhaps you or someone on the USS Gearing Association list would know. Where would the U.S. Naval Reserve Officers' initial training have taken place in the fall of 1944? My husband's secondary training was for radar or C.I.C. placement and taken in the Hollywood Beach Hotel, FL, Jan & Feb. 1945. That is recorded in his history for grandchildren made in 1995, but a naval man of that era recently asked where his initial training took place, and I couldn't remember. Great Lakes Naval Training Station was suggested, but that does not ring a bell. Would it have been at the Norfolk Naval Base, where we were married Dec. 23, 1944? That's where he was, and couldn't come home on leave that Christmas weekend, so asked me to come and marry him before he was assigned and shipped to the Pacific war approaching Japan. My husband was Ensign Malcolm Trowbridge, Jr. of the original crew of the USS Gearing DD710, and I attended the christening of the ship in the Brooklyn Navy Yard in May 3, 1945. Not an important question, but would like to add it to my records.  
Sincerely,  
Beverly Trowbridge

24 June 2010 **E-MAIL** from: spwineguy@aol.com  
My Rank was - LTJG I was aboard: 63-65  
Great time at the Charleston reunion. I'm really pleased to have made your acquaintance, the Association is a super group of people and I'm glad that you and Dan kept it moving ahead for so long. The Frankenmuth reunion next summer, do you have the dates? See you there. Best regards,  
Frank Goetschius from MD

24 June 2010  
Bob, are you still the secretary, keeping the Gearing DD-710 membership list? A man at church who indicated being a destroyer radioman in 1948, said he knew about the 710 and had seen photos on the website of the Gearing. Last Sunday he brought in some copied pages from the website for me, so I looked it up, and sent an email to Don Provost saying I had photos of the ship's beginning if he would like copies. He emailed right back affirming that he would, mentioning my address being in AZ. Guess I neglected to update my address with you. Since being told I was an honorary member [age I guess] and no longer had to pay dues, I apparently did not send my new address: Think I should still pay dues, so you know I'm still around. God bless America,  
Beverly Trowbridge  
[wife of Ens., Malcolm Trowbridge, Jr. 45-46]

25 June 2010 **E-MAIL** from: wjdmjohns1@cox.net  
My Rate was – FTG3 I was aboard: 71-72  
Sailed on reserve Med Cruise in 1971. We spilled oil while refueling in Rota Spain and were never allowed to go into any port except Naples and then Rota on the way back home.  
Wally Johns from AZ

05 July 2010 **E-MAIL** from: paysse1@comcast.net  
As an E-6 Reservist assigned to the Navy & Marine Corps Reserve Center in New Orleans I served 2 weeks ACDUTRA on USS Gearing to bring her from Naples, Italy to the New London, Connecticut for decommissioning. On active duty, I was stationed in San Diego for 5 years on the USS Bausell (DD-845), a Gearing Class Destroyer.  
Wayne C Paysse OSC Ret from FL

05 July 2010  
**E-MAIL** from: briandavies60@tiscali.co.uk  
AT SOME TIME AROUND 1970, DD710 VISITED MALTA. AS A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE STATIONED THERE AT THAT TIME I WAS HONOURED TO BE INVITED ABOARD THE SHIP WITH MY WIFE AS A GUEST. THANKS FOR A WONDERFUL DAY.  
Brian Davies from United Kingdom

07 August 2010  
My Rate was – F2 I was aboard: 46-48  
This is my Uncle Abram "Bud" Flurie. He served from 1946-1948 on board the Gearing. He would like to hear from any of his shipmates. You can also contact him through me (his niece Mary Flurie Burns) at moosefan35@yahoo.com. My father George L. Burns, Jr was a plank owner on the Gearing. You may remember me when I sent you information on my dad George L. Burns Jr. It turns out that my mom's youngest brother also served on the Gearing. My uncle would like to have his name listed on the Gearing website and he'd like to receive newsletters. He doesn't have e-mail access but any e-mail correspondence can come to my e-mail address  
Abram Flurie from MD

16 August 2010 **E-MAIL** from: donprov@optonline.net  
My Rank was – LTJG I was aboard: 64-67  
Bill Latta's Charlestown pictures are now "up" on the web page.  
<http://dd710.proflyersinc.com/> Best regards,  
Don Provost from NJ

18 August 2010      **E-MAIL** from: donprov@optonline.net  
My Rank was – LTJG      I was aboard: 64-67  
Beverly Trowbridge has sent to me for publication on the website her 12 pages of recollections of plank owner Ens. Malcolm Trowbridge in 1945-1946. She wrote it for her grandkids in 1995, but wants to see it on the web now, and I said "Thank you thank you!!! Today I spliced it into the "28 year history recap" section of the web page  
<http://www.proflyersinc.com/dd710/squadron.htm>  
You will find a "Click Here" in the 1945-1946 area to get through to the 12 page .pdf file of memories. She is in the process of having a grandson scan a number of photos we haven't seen yet. More to come! Best regards,  
Don Provost from NJ

24 August 2010  
Subject: New USS Gearing photos 1945-1946  
Late yesterday I finished posting on my Gearing tribute webpage <http://www.proflyersinc.com/dd710/index.html> photos that had been taken in 1945-1946 by Ens. Malcolm Trowbridge. Beverly Trowbridge, of Alabama, has the family picture album and written history. Her son Lee scanned the pictures for us. .Malcolm Trowbridge died in 1992. Beverly's email address is: normavalborg@yahoo.com  
Please help put names on the photos and make corrections where needed. Where was that gunnery exercise? Off of NORVA?  
Email me at: donpro@optonline.net  
A highlight of the new photos is a hi-res copy of the group photo taken of the Gearing's VE Day celebration at New York's Palm Garden Ballroom. Best regards,  
Don Provost from NJ

11 November 2010      **E-MAIL** from: fredh6@frontier.com  
My Rate was – FTG3      I was aboard: 69-70  
Please change my email address to: fredh6@frontier.com  
Fred Huff from WV

11 January 2011      **E-MAIL** from: Mikey9147@aol.com  
My Rate was – PC3      I was aboard: 66-68  
I WAS THE POSTAL CLERK (PC3) AND SERVED ABOARD THIS SHIP DURING MARCH OF 1966 TO OCTOBER 1968...I ALSO WORK IN THE CIC SECTION AND WAS ONE OF THE RADARMAN DURING THE OPERATIONS AT SEA. DURING THE 1968 MED CRUISE AND WAS SHIFT SUPERVISOR. " I WAS TRAINED BY THE BEST RADARMEN IN THE NAVY" AND I'M VERY PROUD OF THIS SHIP....SO HOW DO I JOIN.....ALSO I'M RETIRED MILITARY AND LIVING IN  
MICHAEL R MOYERS from SC

### ***DUES NOTIFICATION***

Your dues notification and 2011 reunion notice are enclosed. Although we print a message on the dues notice that some of you had already paid their 2011, we still get money from some members. If your dues notification has a message on the bottom that states your dues are satisfied, there is no need to send any dues until the message is no longer present. Also, our Honorary Members are not required to send in any money. Some of our Honorary Members send a donation in honor of their departed husbands.

### ***CARL LLOYD PROFILE***

I grew up on a tobacco farm in Granville County, North Carolina. Life consisted of school and working on the farm with not much for entertainment except movies, bowling and pool until the war started. Several of us volunteered for aircraft spotting for the military. We also joined the Home Guard and had drills and exercises regularly. Finished high school and then went into the Navy in May 1944. During boot camp at Camp Perry, Virginia we took tests to help determine where we would be assigned and I was sent to radio school at Bainbridge, Maryland. By some streak of luck we were the first class allowed to choose our type of assignment. Prior classes were sent to the amphibian forces in the Pacific. For some reason I chose destroyers and this is where the luck started.

I was sent to Norfolk, Virginia and spent several weeks in OGU waiting for assignment. This was good duty and I got to go home (North Carolina) every weekend. Finally I was assigned to the USS Gearing pre-commissioning school. We had several weeks of learning operation of the Gearing class destroyer. The latter part of April we were sent to the Armed Guard Center in New York for a couple of days and then aboard the Gearing. We arranged our work area to suit until the ship was commissioned. The war in Europe ended soon after the commission and there was lots of fun to be had in the city. The ship was fully supplied and we headed to Guantanamo Bay on 22 May 1945 for shakedown.

We arrived at Guantanamo Bay on 25 May 1945. The ship went through various exercises with other ships on a daily basis testing all ship's capabilities. On 8 June 1945 Captain Copeman, while at the officers club, made a bet, a case of whiskey, with other skippers on who had the fastest ship. On 9 June 1945 the speed race, officially logged as an engineering speed trial with just two boilers, was completed with the Gearing winning at a speed of between 31 and 32 knots.

There was not much to do on liberty except go on the base and shop and drink Hatui beer. Most of the time we stayed aboard and read or played cards.

After shakedown we went back to New York Navy Yard (arrived 29 June 1945) for modifications and everyone go on leave. We then sailed to Norfolk on 21 July 1945. We did extensive training and all got a 10 day leave. I was on the last section for leave and when I got back aboard the war ended in the Pacific. We were scheduled to go to the Pacific at that time but, of course, that was canceled. We did exercises with other ships until 3 October 1945 when we sailed to Casco Bay, Maine. From Casco Bay we went to New London, Connecticut for Navy Day, then to Boston for repairs and back to Casco Bay.

On 1 November 1945 we sailed for Pensacola, Florida. There we exercised with aircraft carriers USS Ranger and USS Guadalcanal . During this time we got to sail to Houston, Texas for morale of the crew. This was a fun trip.

On 18 February 1946 I was transferred to Little Creek, Virginia for discharge. From there I received a Civil Engineering degree from N.C. State College in 1951. From there I worked four years for the Tennessee Valley Authority then thirty five years for Lockheed Aircraft Corporation.

I found the Gearing Association in 1989 and have had a most enjoyable time with all the Gearing folks since.

Carl T. Lloyd  
RM3c 1945-1946

Joe Dent recently sent a copy of a Family Gram dated 26 January 1958. Following are a few excerpts. If you would like a copy of the complete Family Gram, please send me your name and current address and I will send one to you.

"On 4 December 1957 we headed back for the Mediterranean and a resumption of our SIXTHFLT duties.....Our crossing was rather tough.....The USS Salamonie , a Navy tanker, rendezvoused with us on the 12<sup>th</sup> for a scheduled refueling but because of sea conditions attempts to refuel were unsuccessful. During this time our seaman, George Schack was washed over the side. The Salamonie effected an outstanding recovery despite extremely adverse conditions.....The 15<sup>th</sup> saw us enroute to Gibraltar where repairs were made..... The passage to Naples was uneventful and after an interesting approach passing close by the Isle of Capri and Mr. Vesuvius, we entered the beautiful Bay of Naples, a scant 2 days before Christmas....The ships cooks presented the finest holiday meals I have seen on any ship.... On 21 January we got underway from Naples to Iskenderon, Turkey.....Iskenderon appeared to be a small bleak town clinging tenaciously to the bay's edge while surrounded by high snow capped mountains....we got underway that same night for Ismir, Turkey... After Ismir we will participate in fleet operations.....you should see us back in Norfolk on or about 26<sup>th</sup> of February." E.A.LANE, JR. Commander, US Navy

John Gilbert & Guest	SM3	64-65	CA
Roy & Maureen LeClaire	SN	57-60	CT
Ray & Maria Bento	GMSN	56-60	CT
Dave & Joan Murphy	SN	57-59	CT
Conrad Hebert & Marge	MM2	48-52	DE
Leo Dougherty	RM2	67-68	FL
Ken & Pam Baker	ETN3	62-64	FL
Parker & Rosemarie Remes	MM2	51-55	FL
Joe & Betty Jo Dent	BT3	55-59	FL
Gerry & Simone Clement	RD1	51-55	FL
Carl Lloyd	RM3	45-46	GA
George Jones	BM3	56-59	GA
Don & Diane Hentges	EM2	58-61	IA
Charles & Linda Crossfield	SN	56-58	KS
James & Jackie Scanlan	MM2	58-60	LA
Frank Goetschius	LTJG	63-65	MD
Bob & Hazel Ludema	SH3	51-55	MI
Phil & Mary Ann Meilak	CSSN	62-64	MI
Bryant & Carolyn Parnell	STS3	63-67	MI
Jack & Deborah Cole	QM2	70-72	MI
Barbara (Kenneth J.) Cooper & Guest	SN	56-58	MI
Charles & Shirley Letourneau	LTJG	64-65	NC
Bob Calhoun	MM3	55-59	NJ
George Weber	FPG3	51-55	NJ
John & Anne Reeves	SN	56-58	NJ
Dave Petrie	SN	56-58	NM
Wally & Dixie Prince	DC3	56-58	NV
Jerry Casey & Guest	GMG3	60-62	NY
Bob & Joan Witkowski	FTG3	65-66	NY
Dan & Maureen Donohue	FTG3	65-66	NY
Scott & Joyce Coy	FN	52-54	OH
Dave Chappelle	EN3	53-56	PA
Lee & Becky Gilbert	QMSN	62-64	PA
Rich & Carol Marinelli	MM2	56-60	PA
John & Sheila Koller	GMG3	66-69	PA
Paul Zang & Barb	SK3	53-56	PA
Charles & Ruth Ann Ankney	SN	57-59	PA
Dale Fogel	RM2	50-53	PA
Paul & Sandy Cuny	EM2	59-62	PA
Don Hilaman	FTSN	52-54	PA
Bobby & Diane Harris	BT1	65-69	RI
Burton & Elaine Goldstein	EM3	53-55	RI
Arlie & Barbara Harman	LTJG	55-58	SC
Mike Norfolk & Guests	BMC	54-62	TN
John & Faye Latta	PC3	65-67	TN
Harold & Pat Hollifield	MM3	55-58	TN
Herman & Marilyn Wing	RMC	58-59	VA
Sample & Roxy Stewart	MM1	55-58	VA
Dick Hanley	LT	55-56	VA

## Four Navy Ships Battling Seas Out Of Danger

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 (AP)—The Navy said today that four ships which have been battling a North Atlantic storm off Spain are now considered out of danger.

The two destroyers which were in worse difficulties yesterday, the Gearing and the Vogelgesang, were refueled today. Yesterday they were scaping the bottom of their tanks after wind and mountainous seas prevented refueling by a nearby tanker. A third destroyer, the McCord, which had a larger fuel supply and was in less danger, is to refuel shortly, the Navy said.

Wind and sea conditions have improved considerably in the area, about 400 miles northeast of the Azores.

A fourth destroyer, the USS Manley, which lost a crew member and suffered superstructure damage, was able to proceed toward Lisbon and was due there late today.

A Naval spokesman in Norfolk said a second member of the Manley's crew has died of injuries suffered when the ship was struck by towering seas Wednesday night. The name of this second victim has not been released pending notification of next of kin.

Several other members of the Manley's crew who were injured will be hospitalized in Lisbon, the Navy here said.

Two ships, the transport Gen. Hodges and the light carrier Tripoli, which had been ordered to the scene to help if needed, have now been released to resume course.

The refueling operation was accomplished by the fleet oiler Salamonie.

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