



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

NEWSLETTER # 1-17 01-28-2017

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Shipmates and Families. I trust you had a very Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah and a Happy New. We had a great Holiday together. I am looking forward to a super reunion in Tampa and hope to see all of you there. I have had a lot of birthdays and do not know how many more reunions I can attend so please be there because I want to see all of you.
Carl Lloyd (RM3 45-46)

GET WELL & SYMPATHY CARD PROGRAM

Please send all sickness and death information to our Chaplain, John Reeves – 19 Patricia Lane – Trenton, NJ 08610-2011, so that we can publish it and remember your loved ones and our shipmates.

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.

- Clifford Haywood FT3 58-61
- Michael J. Hutnik ENS 45-46
- Joel B. Covington ENS 69-71
- Inez, widow of Donald R. Granger MM2 49-53
- Wilfred Newsham MM1 44-46
- Edward R. Fazakerley MM1 55-58
- Steve J. Peelish FP2 53-55
- John C. Thompson 1st LT 61
- Arthur Busbee Pfc 61
- Jerry Crawford Pvt 61
- Trevor Davies Cpl 61
- Foster R. Askew GM3 45
- Virginia, wife of Robert Murray BM2 72-73
- Anthony M. Gates RM2 46-49
- Phil, brother of Leo Dougherty RM2 67-68
- Joan, sister of Daniel Donohue FTG3 65-66
- Jackie W. Barton SN 51-52
- Robert J. Honer SM3 59-62
- Edmond Travassos BM3 50-53
- Earl K. Schneck BTG1 45-47
- Richard J. Marinelli MM2 56-60
- William T. Hoffman Jr. BT3 52-54
- Simone, widow of David M. LeBourdais PHM1 44-45
wife of Gerard Clement RD1 51-55
- William E. Wilk SFM3 68-69
- Francis B. "Tom" Howard Jr. ETSN 50-54
- William F. Marion SIC 45-46
- William E. Bensel SN 56-57
- James T. Milan RM3 45-46
- Carlton A. Caron SK3 46-47
- Roy Roberge QM2 68-72

THANKS

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

- P. Prentice 'Lee' Gilbert QMSN 62-64
- John Thibadeau BM3 62-66
- Lillian Lodwick, in memory of her husband,
- Paul Allen Lodwick, RD2 45

- Wallace E. Prince DC3 56-58
- Susan Burr, in memory of her husband,
- Robert R. Burr CS2 49-52
- Philip P. Meilak CSSN 62-64
- George W. Weber FPG3 51-55
- William F. Mueller BT2 52-54
- David B. Petrie SN 56-58
- Anthony P. Sullivan SIC 45-46
- Raymond D. Garceau QM2 68-71
- Perry S. Benson ENS 60-61
- Roland P. 'Pete' Buist YN2 50-52
- Frank W. Goetschius LTJG 63-65
- Stephen K. Chadwick LTJG 62-64
- Randolph G. Smith Jr PN1 64-67
- Larry Leaver ETR2 67-68
- Richard I. Cook GM2 51-55
- Nick Wasilewski, in memory of his father,
- Chester N. Wasilewski, TM2 46-48
- Arlene Anger, in memory of her husband,
- Arnold A. Anger GMGSN 56-58
- Gladys Flynn, in memory of her husband,
- Robert J. Flynn BTC 46-56
- Carl T. Lloyd RM3 45-46
- Martin S. Meislin YN3 64-66
- Harold D. Hollifield MM3 55-58
- Robert K. Calhoun MM3 55-59
- Joan Sickles, in memory of her husband,
- Russell L. Sickles RD2 50-54
- Lois Peelish, in memory of her husband,
- Steve J. Peelish FP2 53-55
- Hugh C. Humphreys LTJG 55-57
- Richard A. White EN2 52-54
- Catherine Ferguson, in memory of her husband,
- Steven V. MM3 56-59
- Paul R. Zang SK3 53-56
- Jim Tracy SH2 70-72
- Raymond Bento GMSN 56-60
- Laurence Schongar LTJG 63-65
- Thomas A. Turner III GMSN 65-67
- Ronald B. Leach IC3 62-65
- David B. Petrie SN 56-58
- Betty Howard, in memory of her husband,
- Francis B. "Tom" ETSN 50-54

GEARING ASSOCIATION TODAY

At the end of 2016, we had 660 names on our mailing list. There were a total of 165 dues paying members, 89 Honorary members, and 8 Life members. Life membership is currently presented to past Association Chairmen and Gearing Shipmate, Vern Clark LT 70-72, who was Chief of Naval Operations. **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>

DUES NOTIFICATION

Your dues notification and 2017 reunion notice are enclosed. Although we print a message on the dues notice that some of you had already paid their 2017, 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.

AT THE 2016 HERNDON, VA REUNION

Our Twenty-Ninth Annual Reunion in Herndon, Virginia began on Thursday 12 May 2016. It was held at the Crowne Plaza Dulles Airport. Frank W. Goetschius (LTJG 63-65) was the host. After registration, all gathered in our hospitality room to get re-acquainted with old shipmates and to meet new shipmates. At 1900 our Board of Directors met to discuss items to be brought up at our Business meeting. It was chaired by Carl Lloyd (RM3 45-46). On Friday morning, 13 May 2016 we boarded busses for our Washington tour. We visited the Marine Corps War Memorial and Jefferson Memorial. Our next stop was the United States Navy Memorial and Heritage Center. Here we held our Memorial Service and had the dedication of our U.S.S. Gearing Plaque, designed by shipmate, Bill Latta (PC3 65-67). The plaque can be viewed at the following site:

<http://navylog.navyememorial.org/print/5080511>

We then enjoyed a box lunch at the center. We again boarded our busses to view the White House and Treasury Department. We visited the National World War II Memorial, The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, The Lincoln Memorial, the Korean War Memorial and the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial. Our next stop was at the Gordon Biersch restaurant. Here we enjoyed a sit down dinner. After a tiring day of site seeing we boarded busses back to our hotel. On Saturday morning, 14 May 2016, we again boarded our busses to tour the United States Capitol and the National Museum of American History, lunch was on our own. Our next tour stop was Arlington National Cemetery. We took trams around the grounds and viewed the Changing of the Guard Ritual at The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Our busses returned us back to our hotel.

On Sunday morning, 15 May 2016, our Business Meeting started at 0930. It was chaired by Carl Lloyd (RM3 45-46). Our Chaplain, John Reeves (SN 56-58), was called upon to lead us in a prayer. Vice-Chairman, Bill Latta (PC3 65-67) was called upon to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Carl read letters from Louise Jefferis, widow of Allen S., (CDR 69-70), and Lou Gearing Jr., grandson of Henry C. Gearing. Our Secretary, Bob Witkowski (FTG3 65-66), was called upon next to give his report. Upon starting to read the minutes from the 2015 Business Meeting, a motion was made not to read the minutes as they already appeared in our newsletter, all in attendance approved. Bob reported that we have 662 names in our database, 158 were dues paying members, 83 were Honorary Members and 7 Life Members. I extend a note of apology at this point of our meeting. Due to another meeting in the conference room next to ours that was playing loud music and making some of our attendees miss what was being said, we decided to move too

another conference room to continue our meeting. At this point in time I turned off my recorder to make the move. When we continued our meeting I forgot to turn my recorder back on, so the next part of this report is from memory of what happened eight months ago. Pins were presented to those who were present. We had zero new Five Year Members, four new Ten Year Members, eleven new Fifteen Year Members, eight new Twenty Year Members and fourteen new Twenty-five Year Members. Our Treasurer, Dan Donohue (FTG3 65-66) was unable to attend this year's reunion. The Treasurer's Report was sent to the Audit Committee. The report was approved by the committee and accepted by those present. Carl Lloyd spoke about some of the items brought up at the Board of Directors meeting. A discussion was had about finding old shipmates was had and some of the ways people have used. Lee Gilbert (QMSN 62-64) and Leo Dougherty (RM2 67-68) were nominated to replace the two out-going Board of Directors. As there were only two nominees, one vote was casted by Secretary, Bob Witkowski (FTG3 65-66) for each of these nominees. All approved. Outgoing Board of Directors were, Frank Goetschius (LTJG 63-65) and Don Hilaman (FTSN 52-54). Carl thanked our reunion hosts, Frank W. Goetschius (LTJG 63-65) and his wife Nancy for planning and running a successful reunion. Frank thanked everyone who helped and assisted him in getting things set up. Carl then called upon our 2017 Reunion Chairman, Leo Dougherty (RM2 67-68) for his report. Leo stated that the reunion would be held in Tampa, FL on April 26 to April 30, 2017. Hotel rates and some of the activities he was planning were reported. Our 2018 Reunion Chairman, Bill Basnett (FN 56-57) gave what info he had on his reunion in Las Vegas, NV.

At this point all members present introduced themselves, stated the time they were on board and the rate or rank they were while on board.

Leo Dougherty (RM2 67-68) gave a little talk on how the Association got started back in 1987 and the things we accomplished since then. Leo thanked Gladys Flynn, widow of Robert (BTC 46-56) for talking him into starting our Ladies Auction. The Ladies Auction has raised a lot of money throughout the years for the Association.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. All approved. All dues paying members in attendance received a souvenir U.S.S. Gearing barbeque spatula.

After a quick break, our Ladies Auction was started. Many shipmates made or brought items that were auctioned off to raise monies for the Association. Carl Lloyd (RM3 45-46) was back as our auctioneer after being on sick leave last year. Carl was back to his old self and had a smile on his face the whole time even without the little butt taps. At the auction, we collected \$1,625.00. Our 50/50 netted \$182.00. A great time was had by all who attended.

After the auction some of us enjoyed our final tour of the National Air and Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center.

At 1800 our banquet started. Carl Lloyd thank our reunion host, Frank W. Goetschius (LTJG 63-65) and his wife Nancy for offering our members a great reunion. We enjoyed a banquet dinner with all the trimmings. Our afghan raffle brought in \$274.00. The winners of the raffle went home with handmade afghan's made by some of our members and their families. We were entertained by a terrific country music band. Almost everyone stayed to enjoy the music until the band packed up to go home.

On Monday, 16 May 2016, we said our goodbyes and planned for our next reunion in Tampa, Florida.

MAIL CALL

08 February 2016
My Rate was: SM I was aboard: 46-47
I won't be able to make any more reunions due to my physical condition, old age etc. I wish a great 2016 to all shipmates. I am also sorry to read that my friend and shipmate, Tom Forth passing on.
Walter R. Evans from GA

13 February 2016
My Rate was: PFC I was aboard: 61
EMAIL: edshea@sageauthoring.com
In receiving the most recent edition of the Gearing Newsletter, I saw an announcement about the deaths of two members of the 3rd Platoon, "G" Company of the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment only briefly detached to the U.S.S. Gearing and functioned as crew members. Something being a RARE event in naval history and something all of us enjoyed. For 15 years now, I've reached out to find the members of "G" Company. Part of my effort has been to advise our members at SolantAmity.com about the passing of old shipmates. When seeing the recent postings of the passing of Bill Frenz and John Lemongelli in the Gearing's newsletter, I thought it appropriate to advise the editor of about the passing of others assigned to Gearing and known to have died. They are:
John C. Thompson, 1st Lieutenant and Platoon Commander from Gulfport, MS
Arthur Busbee, Pfc from Reynolds, GA
Jerry Crawford, Pvt from Ohio
Trevor Davies, Cpl from MA
As I believe, a person has never really "passed" until their name ceases to exist in documents and the conversations of friends, family and associates. I asked that their names be added to the roles of deceased crewmembers of U.S.S. Gearing. As someone who spent three years in the infantry with men of the kind that shared the quarters and chores from engine room to helm with sailors and officers alike...it was an eye opening and cherished experience. (Secretly) I've often announced to my seafaring cousins, "My stint on Gearing was the best several weeks of my four years in the Corps." Stay safe and keep the Association afloat.
Semper fi
Edward Shea from FL

17 February 2016
My Rate was: MM3 I was aboard: 66-70
EMAIL: chief12046@att.net
Looking for anyone on board the Gearing from April 21st, 1966 to April 21st, 1970. Worked in aft engine room. MM3. Contact me any time. Looking for John Jumper for one.
Ray Leslie from OH

21 February 2016
My Rate was: SH2 I was aboard: 70-72
EMAIL: birdwatch.tracy4@gmail.com
I was on board the Weeks and transferred to the Gearing in New London in 1970. Served until August, 1972, in Supply Division.
Jim Tracy from WI

03 March 2016
My Rate was: FPG3 I was aboard: 51-55
I won't be able to attend the Washington reunion.
George W. Weber from NJ

15 March 2016
My Rate was: MM2 I was aboard: 56-60
Richard and I are sorry we cannot attend the reunion this year. Richard has started dialysis. Hopefully in the future, he will be able to attend.
Carol Marinelli from PA

21 March 2016
My Rate was: BT2 I was aboard: 68-72
EMAIL: rkirsch9649@hotmail.com
Retired in 2012 and just moved to Georgia near most of my grandkids.
Robert Kirsch from GA

31 March 2016
EMAIL: cvfdfirefighter144@yahoo.com
My dad was stationed onboard the USS Gearing. Was out to sea when I was born July of 1957.
Tom Bellomy from SC

21 April 2016
EMAIL: LDLancaster@comcast.net
My brother (now departed), our mom, and I would go on board for Sunday dinner in the wardroom often. I realized years later that it meant some junior officers had to wait their dinner or go elsewhere. While the officers and wives had coffee, John and I would roam around "our ship". I remember these visits fondly and the way we were made welcome by everyone from the skipper on down. Thanks for the memories.
Laurence Lancaster from WA

01 May 2016
EMAIL: mgpetruno@gmail.com
What a great website for your ship ... I was aboard the USS Denebola AF-56 from 10/72 - 12/75 as an RM2 ... glad to see you are having reunions ... they are wonderful and very memorable .. meeting plank owners and many shipmates from all those years ... God Bless all of you.
Mark Petruno from FL

18 May 2016
My Rate was: RM3 I was aboard: 45-46
EMAIL: dd710@bellsouth.net
Thanks for all the letters and calls that I got when I was so sick last year. Also thanks for the memories you sent to Amy. There was a box full and it was a surprise that made my eyes water. I love all of you.
Carl Lloyd from GA

21 May 2016
My Rate was: CAPT I was aboard: 70-72
EMAIL: lenholmberg@msn.com
I have never been to such a wonderful ships reunion as the 2016 Gearing Association reunion. It's obvious to me that the members of the association consider themselves a family spread out over the country and the reunions are annual family gatherings. I am sorry that I had not attended past reunions but I am so glad that I did this time. Your shipmate.
Len Holmberg from VA

03 July 2016

EMAIL: amazingg_race@yahoo.com

Aloha, my name is Jackie Barton. My Father served on the U.S.S. Gearing in the 50's. I found a leather bound photos album with the Gearing embossed on the cover. Inside are photos of people he served with. I'd like to send this photo album to your association. Please provide a mailing address or contact number. Thank you.

Jackie Barton from HI

18 July 2016

EMAIL: rbkellar@aol.com

The Gearing Association has created some excellent web sites that are the envy of us other Destroyer crews. Keep up the good work. I came to this site today to report the departure of one of your shipmates, Robert J. (Bob) Honer, SM3, 1959-1962. He was a good friend of mine too. I served in the USS Vogelgesang DD-862, 1959-1961, SM2 and the Vogelgesang and Gearing made many cruises together.

Ronald B. Kellar, SM2 from Kenova, West Virginia

28 July 2016

My Rate was: BMSN I was aboard: 65-68

EMAIL: GBEERS@TAMPABAY.RR.COM

WAS ON THE GEARING 65 THRU 68

Gerald Beers from FL

31 July 2016

My Rate was: MM3 I was aboard: 67-69

EMAIL: stevestirewalt@windstream.net

Worked mainly in the aft engine room. I'm the guy with no tatoos and an earring. Went on 2 Med cruises and lots of gitmo. Anybody heard from Nathan Reed deck ape?

Steven L Stirewalt from NC

28 November 2016

My Rate was: BT3 I was aboard: 69-72

EMAIL: Jshowie376@gmail.com

Came aboard in Newport, RI. and got off in New London CT.

Was stationed in the forward boiler room.

John S Howie from MA

05 December 2016

My Rate was: SN I was aboard: 65-66

EMAIL: leonardlaforte@gmail.com

I served in 1965-1966.

Willard LaForte from MO

10 December 2016

EMAIL: jmaksymiu@gmail.com

My Grandfather serves on the original crew of the DD710. His name is William Frank Marion 2SC. I have seen his name on the Plank Owners list. I found your site as I was searching for information and archives on his service and the Gearing. Great site! I do have his information regarding his service, and every letter he has sent back to his wife, my Grandmother. I may have photos as well. If someone would like to contact me via email, I will verify. God Bless America!

John Maksymiu from IL

2016 REUNION ATTENDEES

Vern & Connie Clark	AZ	LT	70-72
Roy & Maureen LeClaire	CT	SN	57-60
Roy & Nancy Roberge	CT	QM2	68-72
Bill & Michelle McEvoy	CT	YN3	55-58
Bruce & Pam Putinas	CT	HT1	71
Bill & Barbara Heine	CT	ETR2	62-65
Ray & Maria Bento & Louis	CT	GMSN	56-60
Ray & Patty Garceau	CT	QM2	68-71
Conrad Hebert & Margaret	DE	MM2	48-52
Leo & Thi Dougherty	FL	RM2	67-68
Ken & Pam Baker	FL	ETN3	62-64
Joan Sickles & Scott	FL	RD2	50-54
Jack & Deborah Cole	FL	QM2	70-72
Carl Lloyd	GA	RM3	45-46
Frank & Nancy Goetschius	MD	LTJG	63-65
Bill Beck & Barry	MT	RD3	54-57
Larry & Kathy Schongar	NH	LTJG	63-65
John & Anne Reeves	NJ	SN	56-58
Dave Petrie	NM	SN	56-58
Bill & DeLois Basnett	NV	FN	56-57
Bob & Joan Witkowski	NY	FTG3	65-66
Dan & Kay O'Neill	NY	BT2	57-60
Jim & Marilyn Peiffer	NY	SKSN	62-64
Scott & Joyce Coy	OH	FN	52-54
Gladys Flynn & David & Janet	PA	BTC	46-56
Lee & Becky Gilbert	PA	QMSN	62-64
Charles & Ruth Ann Ankney	PA	SN	57-59
Paul & Sandy Cuny	PA	EM2	59-62
Don Hilaman	PA	FTSN	52-54
Michael & Lucy Koenig	PA	LT	71-73
Bob & Diane Harris	RI	BT1	65-69
Burt & Elaine Goldstein	RI	EM3	53-55
Bill & Faye Latta	TN	PC3	65-67
Len & Lee Holmberg	VA	CAPT	70-72
Sam & Roxy Stewart	VA	MM1	55-58
Richard Hanley	VA	LT	55-56
Jim & Sue Tracy	WI	SH2	70-72