



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

NEWSLETTER # 1-18 01-19-2018

CHANGE OF COMMAND

CHAIRMAN

Bill Latta PCS 65-67

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Ken Baker ETN3 62-64

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

2018 marks the 31st year the USS Gearing (DD-710) was formally organized as a non-profit Navy veterans group. This is a remarkable milestone for any veterans' organization. The Association has grown into a tight band of brothers who served as shipmates on this proud warship. The Association remains strong. Since our 2017 reunion in Tampa, FL, Ken Baker, Vice Chairman, and I launched an effort to reach out to our lost Gearing shipmates who may not know about the Association as well as to those Gearing shipmates who may have simply drifted away.

We searched for lost shipmates online and mailed letters to those we haven't heard from in sometime. The shipmates with whom I have had the privilege of talking with on the phone seemed very eager reconnect with their shipmates. So, we do not want to leave any shipmate behind.

At the end of September, I launched our new USS Gearing (DD-710) Association Facebook page. This is a public Facebook page that anyone on FB can see. Within this page is our USS Gearing (DD-710) Community group page. This is a closed group made up of USS Gearing shipmates, their spouse or widow, and family. One must request or be asked to join for membership in this group. On the USS Gearing (DD-710) Community group page you can submit your own posts, share sea stories, submit photos and videos, and stay with the USS Gearing family connected year-round on a regular basis.

We all look forward to the 2018 USS Gearing (DD-710) Association's 31st reunion. See the 2018 Reunion Notice in this issue of the newsletter for details. So, register now and make your reservations. Come and join us for a great time in a fabulous city reconnecting with your USS Gearing family.

Bill Latta (PCS 1965-67)

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.

- Donald H. Barnes LTJG 51-53
Michael Boggi Jr. MM3 59-60
Merle H. Carder MSI 50-51
Clint H. Courtney QMSN 60-61
Wendell M. Hopper GM3 52-56
John M. Biresch Jr. EM2 56-59

- Martha, widow of Robert T. Waldrop Jr. TMSN 51-53
Robert L. Stevens EN1 71
Robert E. Hagarty RM3 65-66
Henry M. Garlick RMS 59-62
Donald E. Harrington MIDSP 51
Donald E. Wagner FN 59-63
Anthony J. DiMartino ETM3 45-46
George N. Hamman RDC 61-64
Michael A.J. Ferencsik LTJG 66-67
Rodney E. Thompson RDS 6S-66
James A. Cooper SN 63-64
James C. Worley Jr. S03 53-56
Ray M. Quire GM2 45-49
Joseph L. Morgan Jr. ENS 45-47
Francis L. Cameroni SIC 46
George D. Ackroyd RD2 65-67
Jerry D. Fawcett BMSN 59-62
Samuel D. Pappas Jr. GMG3 54-58
Abram Flurie F2C 46-47
John Lucas EM2 70
Charles S. Mumford MM2 65-69
Gary W. Sokoll RDS 65-69
William J. Harman S03 59-60
S. Tony Zarbano MM3 45-49
Charles A. Dew RM3 63-65
Richard W., son of Gladys and late Robert J. Flynn BTC 46-56
Malcoln Jones FT3 54-56
Jerome F. Goelz SFM3 63-65
Paul R. Zang SK3 53-56
Phillip W. Piela SN 62
Carol, wife of John W. Datre ETN3 64-66
Robert T. Boggs SN 56-59
Lee, wife of Leimart G. Holmberg CAPT 70-72
Anna, widow of Harold F. Koehler GM3 45-46
Ronald E. Smith RMS 55-56
Thomas W. Bettura GMM3 62-64
Lavon E. Butler RMSN 59-60
Robert C. Stroup ETRSN 59-61
Bobby McGee BT2 54-55
Barry Johnson BM3 66-67
Ernest D. Albanese Jr. S2C 45-46

THANKS

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

- Lillian Lodwick, in memory of her husband Paul Allen, RD2 45
Chester N. Wasilewski, in memory of his father Nick, TM2 46-48
Phyllis Zumatto, in memory of husband Louis, SKSN 50-51
Beverly Forth, in memory of husband Thomas C., RMSN 46-47
Betty Howard, in memory of husband Francis B. Jr., ETSN 50-54
David B. Petrie SN 56-58
George W. Weber FPG3 51-55
William F. Mueller BT2 50-54
Albert D. Wood LTJG 53-55
Joseph R. Dent BT3 55-59
Lennart G. Holmberg CAPT 70-72
John R. Kelley EM2 63-67

Thomas Emmons LTJG 70-72  
Fred E. Huff FTG3 69-70  
Stephen K. Chadwick LTJG 62-64  
Arlene Anger, in memory of husband Arnold A., GMGSN 56-58  
Roland P. 'Pete' Buist YN2 50-52  
Faye H. Baumgarten, in loving memory of first husband, Kenneth L. Byrne LTJG 45-46  
Martin S. Meislin YN3 64-66  
Charles H. Adamo RM3 60-63  
Eugene W. Potts RDSN 62-64  
Lois Peelish, in memory of husband Steve J., FP2 53-55  
James R. Kincaid ET1 68-72  
William S. McFadden SK3 62-64  
P. Prentice 'Lee' Gilbert QMSN 62-64  
Carl T. Lloyd RM3 45-46  
Wallace E. Prince DC3 56-58  
William F. 'Buck' O'Connor GMG2 60-61  
Anthony P. Sullivan SIC 45-46  
Frank W. Goetschius LTJG 63-65  
Richie Roberts MM3 72-73  
William D. Young SN 53-56  
Hugh C. Humphreys LTJG 55-57  
Roy W. LeClaire SN 57-60  
Harold D. Hollifield MM3 55-58  
Paul R. Zang SK3 53-56  
Richard A. Durante MM3 51-54  
Perry S. Benson ENS 60-61  
Joan Sickles, in memory of husband, Russell L., RD2 50-54

#### **GEARING ASSOCIATION TODAY**

At the end of 2017, we had 606 names on our mailing list. There were a total of 151 dues paying members, 89 Honorary members, and 8 Life members. Life membership is currently presented to past Association Chairmen and Gearing Shipmate, Vem 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 2018 reunion notice are enclosed. Although we print a message on the dues notice that some of you had already paid their 2018 dues, we still get money from some members who have already paid. 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 2017 TAMPA FLORIDA REUNION**

Our Thirtieth Annual Reunion in Tampa, Florida began on Wednesday 26 April 2017. It was held at the Crowne Plaza Tampa Westshore Hotel. Leo Dougherty (RM2 67-68) was the host. After registration, all gathered in our hospitality room to get acquainted with old shipmates and to meet new shipmates.

On Thursday morning, 27 April 2017 we boarded buses for our tour of the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI). Our next stop was at the Columbia Restaurant where we enjoyed a delicious meal and entertained by flamingo dancers. Our next stop took us to the Dali Museum, dedicated to the work of Salvador Dali. It houses the largest collection of Dali's works outside Europe. After a tiring day of touring, we returned back to our hotel. Hospitality Room was open.

On Friday morning, 28 April 2017 we again boarded buses for our trip to the Florida Aquarium in Downtown Tampa. It is an interesting display of aquatic fish and wildlife. For those adventurous guests, you could don scuba gear and swim in one of their large tanks and mingle with the fish and other sea creatures. None of our group was interested in getting wet but would rather board the buses again for our next stop, the Yacht Starship. After enjoying a sit-down lunch aboard the Starship, our Memorial Service was held on the upper deck. Names of Departed Shipmates, Departed Spouses and family members were read. A Memorial Wreath was then tossed in the water. Our final bus ride took us back to the hotel.

At 1900 Our Ladies Auction started. Many shipmates made or brought items that were auctioned off to raise monies for the Association. Our Auctioneer, Carl Lloyd (RM3 45-46) did another splendid job in running the auction. A great time was had by all who attended.

At 0830 on Saturday 29 April 2017, our Board of Directors Meeting was held and chaired by Carl Lloyd. Items to be brought up at our Business Meeting were discussed.

On Saturday morning, 29 April 2017, our Business Meeting started at 0930. It was chaired by Carl Lloyd (RM3 45-46). Carl welcomed everyone to the Thirtieth Reunion of the U.S.S. Gearing (DD-710). Our Vice-Chairman, Bill Latta (PC3 65-67), led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Our Chaplain, John Reeves (SN 56-58), was called upon to lead us in prayer. Before he started his prayer, he apologized for not remembering Simone Clement, widow of Gerard Clement (RDI 51-55) and Martha Waldrop, widow of Robert T. Waldrop Jr. (TMSN 51-53) at yesterday's Memorial Service. A moment of silence was held for Simone and Martha.

Carl gave a little history of the gavel and sounding block used at our reunions. Departed Shipmate, Frank R. Schleis (BM2 45-46) let our Association use the gavel and sounding block until our Association no longer exists. The gavel and sounding block were made from the keel of the U.S.S. Constitution, Old Ironsides. Frank wanted gavel and sounding block returned to the U.S.S. Constitution Museum when we no longer needed it.

Carl now called upon Leo Dougherty (RM2 67-68), our 2017 Tampa Reunion Chairman. Leo thanked everyone for coming back to Tampa and hoped all were enjoying themselves. Leo ran a reunion in Tampa in 2012.

Carl now called upon our Treasurer, Dan Donohue (FTG3 65-66), to give his report. Dan remembered Simone Clement and shipmates that were unable to attend and sent donations, George Weber (FPG3 51-55), Paul Zang (SK3 53-56), Harold D. Hollifield (MM3 55-58), Joan Sickles, widow of Russell (RD2 50-54), Beverly Forth, widow of Thomas C. (RMSN 46-47), Wally Prince (DC3 56-58) and Lee Gilbert (QMSN 52-54). Donations were also made by Carl Lloyd (RM3 45-46) and Dave Petrie (SN 56-58). Dan reported that there is \$20,121.45 in our bank as of 31 March. Most of this money would be used to pay reunion expenses and would leave us with an amount that hovers between \$9,000.00 and \$10,000. Dan reported that he sent the Audit Committee a copy of his records. Carl now called upon the Audit Committee, Frank W. Goetschius (LTJG 63-65) and Ray Bento (GMSN 59-60) to give their report. Frank reported that all records were in order and that they be accepted.

Carl now called upon Secretary, Bob Witkowski (FTG3 65-66) to give his report. A motion was made and accepted not to read the minutes of the 2016 Herndon Reunion as they were already reported in the newsletter. Bob reported that it was getting harder to find old shipmates. Only two were found this year and five last year. The last time more than ten shipmates were found was in 2006. Bob then gave out the following pins, Five Year Members (1), Ten Year Members (1), Fifteen Year Members (5), Twenty Year Members (5), Twenty-Five Year Members (13) and Thirty Year Members (13).

Carl now called upon Chaplain, John Reeves (SN 56-58) to give his report. John reported that he sent a few cards to widows of Departed Shipmates and that he received one thank you card back. He also reported that three sympathy cards were returned as undeliverable by the post office. John reported that he feels like he still is not getting informed when a shipmate passes away. He thanked those present for their patience in his sympathy program. Carl reported that at the Directors meeting they talked about how long to continue our reunions and asked those present to think about this and let us know at our 2019 Buffalo Reunion. A discussion was had on how long our reunions should be. Some good points were brought up and most would prefer a length of four nights and three days. Treasurer, Dan Donohue, reported that in recent years the Association has given the Reunion Chairman \$1,500.00 to help reduce some of the reunion costs, which he could apply however he deems too.

Carl also reported that at the Directors meeting a recommendation was made for each member attending a reunion, to provide an Emergency Contact name and phone number when sending in their registration form.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Frank W. Goetschius (LTJG 63-65) reported that last year, his wife Nancy, contacted United States Senator from Maryland, Barbara A. Mikulski, to inform her of the U.S.S. Gearing and of our upcoming reunion in Herndon, Virginia. Senator Mikulski was kind enough to donate two American Flags, with certificates, to the Association to commemorate the Gearing's Seventy-First Commissioning Anniversary. The Gearing was commissioned on 03 May 1945 and the flags were flown over the United States Capitol on 03 May 2016. One flag was presented to the U.S.S. Gearing Association and the other to honor Carl Lloyd for his dedication, tireless effort and his inspired leadership with the U.S.S. Gearing Association. After much applause, Carl responded with "Someone knows how to make an old man cry."

Leo Dougherty (RM2 67-68) reported that in our By-Laws there is an article about trying to have another Navy Ship named Gearing. After many years of trying, it became apparent that this wasn't going to happen. Leo thanked Frank Goetschius for his efforts in getting a commemorative plaque at the United States Navy Memorial in Washington D.C.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Carl Lloyd informed us that we needed a new Chairman, Vice-Chairman and two Board Directors this year and took nominations from the floor. Bill Latta (PCS 65-66) was nominated for Chairman, Ken Baker (ETN3 62-64) was nominated for Vice-Chairman, Frank W. Goetschius (LTJG 63-65) and Jack Cole (QM2 70-72) were nominated for Board Directors. All nominees were approved by those attending. Secretary, Bob Witkowski (FTG3 65-66) cast one vote for each selection.

Leo Dougherty reported that he would need some help with the Car Show after the meeting. Two volunteers would help with traffic direction.

All crewmembers in attendance now introduced themselves and stated their name, rate or rank and dates aboard.

Bill Basnett (FN 56-57), our 2018 Reunion Chairman, was called upon to give us an update on his reunion. Bill, along with his wife DeLois, reported that the 2018 reunion would be held in Las Vegas from April 22 to April 26 (**DATES CORRECTED on 04 January 2018, CORRECTED DATES ARE APRIL 21 (SAT) TO APRIL 25 (WED)**) at the Golden Nugget in downtown Las Vegas. Bill stated the room rates that he contracted and some of the amenities available. Liquor would not be served in our hospitality room but would be available in Bill's suite and then may be carried into the hospitality room. Bill gave a run down on what some of the attractions, shows and entertainment that are available in the area. Bill handed out a survey as to what we would like to see while in Vegas and he would make his tour decisions on the results. For those who want to stay after the reunion, Bill gave a rundown on what was available within 350 miles.

Our 2019 Reunion Chairman, Jim Peiffer (SKSN 62-64) was called upon to give information on the Buffalo reunion. Jim reported that no definite dates or hotel have been selected.

Carl asked for a volunteer for the 2020 reunion. As no one volunteered, it would be put on hold and added to our next newsletter.

Carl thanked Jack Cole (QM2 70-72) and Bill McFadden (SK3 62-64) for their service as Board Directors.

Dick Hanley (LT 55-56) made a recommendation that we thank the Association officers for the work they provide to the Association, all agreed and applauded.

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

After the Business Meeting we all enjoyed a Poolside BBQ. Leo Dougherty set up a Car Show of old car models in the parking lot. A group of about 20 cars were on display, some restored to original condition and some customized to show what can be done with a vintage car. Our shipmates voted on which car they liked best and trophies were awarded to the winners.

At 2000 our Banquet started. We enjoyed a delicious meal and were entertained by a DJ. After dinner, the DJ provided music for our listening and dancing pleasure.

Sunday 20 April 2017 was time for our Farewell and Cast Off with chatter about our 2018 Vegas reunion starting already.

#### ***2020 REUNION HELP***

As we had no one volunteer to run our 2020 Reunion, we are looking for someone to run the 2020 Reunion in their home town. If you are interested, please contact one of our Association Officers.

***DON'T LET IT END AT BUFFALO IN 2019!***

**MAIL CALL**

28 January 2017

My Rate was: FPG3

I was aboard: 51-55

I am unable to make anymore reunions because I'm a caregiver to two women with dementia, one is my friend Colette. I am making a donation to the Gearing Association.

George W. Weber from NJ

01 February 2017

I am making a donation to the U.S.S. Gearing Association in memory of my husband, Louis Zumatto, SKSN 50-51.

Phyllis Zumatto from NY

01 February 2017

Sorry, I will not be able to attend this year due to illness in the family. If things go well, I hope to make the next one. God Bless each of you. Have a great time in Florida.

Lois Peelish, widow of Steve J., FP2 53-55, from WV

06 February 2017

My Rate was: SH3

I was aboard: 51-55

**EMAIL:** bobandhazel56@icloud.com

Sorry, we cannot attend.

Bob and Hazel Ludema from MI

08 February 2017

My Rank was: LTJG

I was aboard: 63-65

**EMAIL:** lschongar@gmail.com

So sorry we won't be able to come this year. The itinerary looks great. Have fun!

Larry and Kathy Schongar from NH

10 February 2017

My Rate was: RM3

I was aboard: 60-63

**EMAIL:** cadamo613@gmail.com

Had plans on being at the reunion this year, however, will be having surgery in March and will not be able to attend. I went to very first reunion in New York State. Hope to make 2018.

Thanks for all the work you do.

Chuck Adamo from PA

19 February 2017

My Rate was: MM3

I was aboard: 72-73

**EMAIL:** RHR53@optonline.net

Say hello to all! Sorry can't make it this year.

Richie Roberts from CT

25 February 2017

My Rate was: YNT3

I was aboard: 59-60

**EMAIL:** Duck300bowl@gmail.com

Had an absolute BLAST on Med Cruise. Bob Laba, Little Doc Bringle and I went to Paris for new years 59-60. I visited 22 cities on 3 continents. My duties as a Yeoman; Legal, deck logs, leave, liberty. Crypto Clearance, phone talker. Great bunch of guys as crewmen. Would do it all over again. Finished college in 1963 and got an Honorable Discharge in 1962 as YNT3, USNR.

Married '65.

Don "Duck" Kochevar from IL

24 March 2017

My Rate was: BMSN

I was aboard: 65-68

**EMAIL:** gbeers@frontier.com

STILL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH JUMPER ANS NASH.

Gerald Beers from FL

29 March 2017

My Rate was: EM3

I was aboard: 53-55

**EMAIL:** burtong530@gmail.com

Unfortunately as much as Elaine and I were planning on going to the Reunion this year, especially since we are in Florida right now, we are not going to be able to attend. We are selling our house here in Florida, and just as soon as we close we are heading back North. Due to health problems at this time we feel it's better to pass this year and hope to make the Reunion next year. Please send our regards to everyone.

Goldie and Elaine Goldstein from RI

17 April 2017

My Rate was: MM3

I was aboard: 66-70

**EMAIL:** chief12046@att.net

Would like to hear from past shipmates if anyone's interested.

Worked in the aft engine room.

Ray Leslie from OH

17 April 2017

My Rate was: GMGSN

I was aboard: 71-73

**EMAIL:** michaelmazzeo67@gmail.com

Remember the burial at sea winter 1972 or 1973.

Michael J. Mazzeo from CT

30 May 2017

**EMAIL:** cwins89@vt.edu

In memory of my grandfather Foster Askew (GM3, 45), thank you for your service on the USS Gearing. To the members of DD710.com, thanks for keeping such a great site and a happy Memorial Day!

Christopher Winslow from NC

15 June 2017

**EMAIL:** Vicbfour@sbcglobal.net

Checking it out again.

Paul Koncevic from IL

09 September 2017

**EMAIL:** moseschristianjones@gmail.com

My Father MALCOLM JONES was FT3, then FTa3 on the USS Gearing during his enlistment 1952-1956. He passed away in 2005, I would like to find any and all information or stories that may relate to him. He was an accomplished artist and told me he drew portraits of many of his fellow sailors. I hope to hear from you. Thank you.

Moses Christian Jones from CA

07 December 2017

**EMAIL:** maurice.blacher@gmail.com

I was there around 1968 with the Navy League. We did a two-week drill with a Canadian unit. Every one of those sailors were true professional. It left a lasting impression on me to this day. Ended up going to Army ROTC at Rutgers University and did 20 years. Would have done Navy, but there was no Navy ROTC at the time.

Maurice Blacher from VA

13 December 2017

**EMAIL:** octileandgrout9@gmail.com

DASH 1966 TO 1968.

Ronald Donofrio from CA

22 December 2017

My Rate was: BT3

I was aboard: 70-73

**EMAIL:** jadasie@juno.com

Hadn't been here in a while. Still a great site.

John R. Carroll from TN

28 December 2017

My Rate was: BMSN

I was aboard: 65-68

**EMAIL:** gbeers@tampabay.rr.com

Enjoy my time on the Gearing.

Gerald Beers from FL

06 January 2018

**EMAIL:** Larry@LDLancaster.com

Son of Dudley S. Lancaster. My brother and I used to come aboard for Sunday Dinner with mother, Mildred, when in port at Norfolk or Little Creek, VA. What fun to have a fighting ship of the US Navy to play on! The crew, especially the officer's mess personnel, were always friendly to us. I remember it fondly. Thanks.

Laurence Lancaster from WA

## 2017 REUNION ATTENDEES

Bruce & Pam Putinas	CT	HT1	71
Ray & Maria Bento	CT	GMSN	56-60
Ray & Pat Garceau	CT	QM2	68-71
Conrad Hebert & Marg	DE	MM2	48-52
Leo & Thi Dougherty	FL	RM2	67-68
Ken & Pam Baker	FL	ETN3	62-64
Bob & Patty Calhoun	FL	MM3	55-59
Parker & Rosemarie Remes	FL	MM2	51-55
Gerry Clement & Cell Corbin	FL	RD1	51-55
Ken & Bev Webster	FL	SN	62-64
Jack & Deborah Cole	FL	QM2	70-72
Carl Lloyd	GA	RM3	45-46
Frank & Nancy Goetschus	MD	LTJG	63-65
Phil Mellak & Josann & Matt	MI	CSSN	62-64
Bill Beck & Tracy & Barry	MT	RD3	54-57
John & Sandra Coble	NC	RM3	67-70
John & Anne Reeves	NJ	SN	56-58
Bill & DeLois Basnett	NV	FN	56-57
Bob & Joan Witkowski	NY	FTG3	65-66
Dan & Maureen Donohue	NY	FTG3	65-66
Jim & Marilyn Pelffer	NY	SKSN	62-64
Scott & Joyce Coy	OH	FN	52-54
John & Sheila Koller	PA	GMG3	66-69
Charles & Ruth Ann Ankney	PA	SN	57-59
Bill & Faye Latta	TN	PC3	65-67
Dick Hanley	VA	LT	55-56
Russell & Eva Brown	VT	RM2	67-70