



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

NEWSLETTER # 1-20 02-24-2020

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Another year has passed; yet, another year is underway. It will soon be time for our 33rd annual reunion. I am looking forward to seeing all of you there.

Our USS Gearing (DD-710) Association continues to be strong, owing to the tireless efforts of our many volunteers, who serve as officers on our board of directors, step forward to host our reunions, serve at check-in for our reunions, help with drinks and food in the hospitality room, and bring donations for our Ladies' Auction each year. Without each of you, our association would not be the organization that it is. So, kudos to all of you who selflessly volunteer to make our association continue to function and succeed.

Since our last reunion in Buffalo, NY, we have continued our outreach to locate "lost" USS Gearing shipmates. 2020 brings to an end my service as your chairman of the board. Ken Baker (ETN3, 1962-64), vice-chairman, and I made it one of our goals for the past three years to not leave one USS Gearing shipmate behind. We have reached out and contacted as many former USS Gearing shipmates as were known through a mailing, and hopefully, they find us on Facebook. While I am not aware if we gained any new active members, we have had a few former USS Gearing shipmates find us on Facebook, who are not active in the Association. They have asked to join our USS Gearing (DD-710) Community private group page on Facebook. While they are not yet active in the association, it does help us stay visible and connected with them through Facebook.

I often meet other Navy veterans who do not have an organization such as ours. They say that none of their shipmates have tried to organize a shipmates' association. They are eager to hear about our association and about our how we have stayed together all these many years. They sadly tell me they wish they had an organization such as ours. And as time rolls-on, they tell me they wish they could see some of their former shipmates, at least one more time.

These vets telling me this makes me realize how very fortunate we are to have an organization that makes it possible for us to associate together with each other as former USS Gearing shipmates. While our time aboard the USS Gearing seems short now, it was likely pivotal in forming our young lives at that time. So, it is not insignificant that we choose to hang together—even to this very day. Our Association keeps our ship's memory and history alive and allows us to reconnect as USS Gearing shipmates. So, it takes all of us to continue to make the USS Gearing (DD-710) Association what it is.

Our 2020 reunion will be held Thursday, June 11 thru Thursday, June 14 in Livonia, MI—a suburban city just 15 miles northwest of downtown metropolitan Detroit. So mark your calendar and plan to join us there for a great time of sightseeing and fellowship with your USS Gearing (DD-710) shipmates, family, and friends. Be sure to see the 2020 Reunion Notice in this issue of the USS Gearing (DD-710) Association Newsletter for all the details. Register now and make your reservations for the 2020 reunion. Come, join us for a great time in another fabulous city, and hang out a bit with your USS Gearing shipmates.

Bill Latta (PC3, 1965-67), *Chairman*

GET WELL & SYMPATHY CARD PROGRAM

Please send all sickness and death information to our Treasurer, Dan Donohue – 30 Downer Avenue – Scarsdale, NY 10583-4945, 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.

- William H. Frame SN 52-55
- Jane, widow of Darrell L. Keene MM3 52-56
- James F. Featherstone LTJG 60-63
- Roland P. 'Pete' Buist YN2 50-52
- Donald M. Zugay FT3 54-56
- Eileen, wife of Frank Schmidt PFC 61
- Hazel, wife of Richard Lesandro TM3 54-56
- Harold E. Faulkner SO3 49-50
- William A. Underwood MMFN 57-59
- Donald E. Stevenson GM3 60-61
- James W. Martin CDR 64-66
- George W. Weber FPG3 51-55
- Jesse E. Cranford Jr GMG1 67-70
- Roy W. LeClaire SN 57-60
- Laurence H. Schongar LTJG 63-65
- Jackie, wife of James Philip Scanlan Jr. MM2 58-60
- George F. Fay TMS1C 45-46
- Joseph M. Patton FIC 45-46
- Henry R. DeSoto BM3 45-46
- Edward C. Motta EN3 52-57
- LeRoy S. Lindbloom FTCS 64-67
- Richard S. Karahan SN 49-52
- Darrell Kuhlmann SK3 62-65
- Carroll N. Ellis GM3 56-59
- John A. Jumper MM3 64-67
- Frank J. Mogavero SM3 62-64
- John E. Daniel ETN3 58-61
- Estelle, widow of Fulton O. Wright CS1 58-59
- Nancy, widow of Robert A. Heckman SN 49-52
- David O. Ceresoli FN 50-52
- George C. Jones Jr. BM3 56-59
- Barbara, wife of John Thibadeau BM3 62-66
- Patricia, widow of Robert K. Calhoun MM3 55-59
- Peter F. D'Arrigo BM1 66-68
- Lennart G. Holmberg CAPT 70-72
- Conrad T. Hebert MM2 48-52
- David W. Bish BMSN 65-68

THANKS

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

- Ronald B. Leach IC3 62-65
- Joseph R. Dent BT3 55-59
- Larry Leaver ETR2 67-68
- William F. 'Buck' O'Connor GMG2 60-61
- Thomas Emmons LTJG 70-72

John R. Kelley EM2 63-67
William F. Mueller BT2 50-54
Lois, in memory of her husband,
Steve J. Peelish FP2 53-55
Randolph G. Smith Jr PN1 64-67
John William Latta PC3 65-67
William A. Hiles RM2 67-69
Faye H. Baumgarten, in memory of her husband,
Kenneth L. Byrne LTJG 45-46
Richard A. Durante MM3 51-54
Beverly, in memory of her husband,
Thomas C. Forth RMSN 46-47
Stephen K. Chadwick LTJG 62-64
Joan, in memory of her husband,
Russell L. Sickles RD2 50-54
Arlene, in memory of her husband,
Arnold A. Anger GMSN 56-58
Harold D. Hollifield MM3 55-58
William D. Young SN 53-56
Vernon E. Clark LT 70-72
Perry S. Benson ENS 60-61
Frank W. Goetschius LTJG 63-65
Pat, in memory of her husband,
William A. Underwood MMFN 57-59
Betty, in memory of her husband,
Francis B. "Tom" Howard Jr. ETSN 50-54
James Philip Scanlan Jr. MM2 58-60
Peter F. Gerber FTG1 66-67
John S. Howie BT3 69-72
Carl T. Lloyd RM3 45-46
John F. Reeves SN 56-58
Maureen, in memory of her husband,
Roy W. LeClaire SN 57-60
Wallace Prince DC3 56-58
Richie Roberts MM3 72-73
Kathy, in memory of her husband,
Laurence H. Schongar LTJG 63-65
Nick, in memory of his father,
Chester N. Wasilewski TM2 46-48
Ronald J. Elwell PC2 68-70
Lillian, in memory of her husband,
Paul Allen Lodwick RD2 45

GEARING ASSOCIATION TODAY

At the end of 2019, we had 543 names on our mailing list. There were a total of 128 dues paying members, 94 Honorary members, and 7 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 2020 reunion notice are enclosed. Although we print a message on the dues notice that some of you had already paid their 2020 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 2019 BUFFALO NEW YORK REUNION

Our Thirty-Second Annual Reunion in Buffalo, New York began on Sunday 05 May 2019. It was held at Adam's Mark / Buffalo Grand Hotel. Jim Peiffer (SKSN 62-64) was the host. After registration, all gathered in our hospitality room to get re-acquainted with old shipmates and to meet new shipmates.

On Monday morning, 06 May 2019 we boarded busses that took us to the Buffalo Transportation Pierce-Arrow Museum. The museum has an impressive collection of automobiles, bicycles, motorcycles, Pierce-Arrow artifacts, Jello Wagon, Corvette collection, a reproduction of the 1927 Buffalo Filling Station and much more. In 1927, world-renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright designed a unique fuel filling station intended for the corner of Michigan Avenue and Cherry Street, downtown Buffalo. The station was never built. After our tour, we enjoyed a buffet lunch at Chef's Restaurant.

Back on board our buses, we headed to the Canal Side Naval and Military Park. The park is the largest inland naval park in the United States. It is located on the waterfront in downtown Buffalo, the Naval Park includes the Guided Missile Cruiser USS Little Rock (CLG-4 / CG4), the Destroyer USS The Sullivans (DD-537), and a WWII submarine, the USS Croaker (SSK-246). The Park includes an outside exhibit area, a museum building and a gift shop. Over many years, the Park has obtained artifacts related to all branches of the Armed Forces. Our Memorial Service was held on the fantail of USS The Sullivans (DD-537) where names of recently departed shipmates, spouses and family members were read and remembered.

After a long day of touring, we headed back to our hotel.

On Tuesday morning, 07 May 2019 we boarded buses for our Niagara Power Vista Tour. It offered spectacular views high above the Niagara River Gorge, many displays and a Get Up Close to New York's Largest Electricity Producer experience. From there we enjoyed a buffet lunch at Waterstreet Landing in Lewiston, NY.

Our buses now took us to Niagara Falls Park, NY. Here we were able to see Goat Island, Three Sisters Island, American Falls Viewing Area and Cave of the Winds. Although the weather didn't cooperate well, we were able to walk around the area and see all the sites. You could even take a tram that took you around to see the sites. We then boarded our buses to return back to the hotel.

Our Board of Directors meeting was held and chaired by Bill Latta (PC3 65-67). Items to be brought up at our Business Meeting were discussed.

Our Ladies Auction was next on the agenda. Our Auctioneer, Carl Lloyd (RM3 45-46) did another splendid job in running the auction. A total of \$1,029.00 was made at the auction and \$171.00 was made on the afghan raffle. A great time was had by all who attended.

On Wednesday morning, 08 May 2019, our Annual Business Meeting started at 0845. It was chaired by Bill Latta (PC3 65-67). Bill thanked Jim Peiffer (SKSN 62-64) and his wife, Marilynn, for hosting our 2019 Reunion in Buffalo, New York. He added that he totally enjoyed our visit Niagara Falls, in the rain. Bill now called upon our Chaplain, Ray Garceau (QM2 68-71) to lead us in our opening prayer. Our new Master at Arms, Conrad Hebert (MM2 48-52) led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Bill reported that

Chaplain, Ray Garceau and Master at Arms, Conrad Hebert were elected at our Directors Meeting last night. We are still in need of a Historian. Our Historian, George C. Jones (BM3 56-59) passed away earlier this year.

Bill called upon our Treasurer, Dan Donohue (FTG3 65-66) to give his report but first reported that our Audit Committee consisted of Ray Bento (GMSN 56-60) and Ken Baker (ETN3 62-64). Dan first reported that Frank Goetschius' (LTJG 63-65) wife, Nancy was recovering from back surgery. Dan read a thank you note from Nancy. Dan reported that our yearly approximate balance is \$6,500.00. Currently we have \$12,500.00 in our treasury, this includes money for our reunion expenses. Bill now called upon the Audit Committee for their report. Both Ray Bento and Ken Baker reported they reviewed Dan's records and found everything to be in order. Bill Latta made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, all present were in favor. Dan also reported he had a list of people who had made donations to the Association during the past year. The list would be available to look at after the meeting.

Bill now called upon Secretary, Bob Witkowski (FTG3 65-66) to give his report. Bob reported that he had the minutes from the 2018 Reunion in Las Vegas, Nevada. A motion was made to not read the minutes as they already appeared in our last newsletter. It was approved.

Bob read the totals of names in our data base. There were 560 names in our data base and only 126 were dues paying members. Bob also reported that no new names added during the past year and asked those in attendance to see if they could locate any shipmates that they served with.

Bob than presented membership pins to those in attendance. Five Year Pin (3): Ten Year Pin (2): Fifteen Year Pin (4) Twenty Year Pin (8): Twenty-Five Year Pin (7): Thirty Year Pin (7).

Only three shipmates were present:

Charles C. Ankney Jr. (SN 57-59) Twenty-Five Year Pin

Ray Bento (GMSN 56-60) Twenty-Five Year Pin

Bobby Joe Harris (BT1 65-69) Thirty Year Pin

Secretary's Report was accepted and approved.

Bill now brought up Old Business. As it becomes harder to find someone to run a reunion, at last night's Directors Meeting, Ken Baker (ETN3 62-64), stepped forward to become the Board Reunion Committee Chair. Ken will work with board members to run a reunion if no one steps forward to do so.

Bill reported the 2020 Reunion would be hosted by Jack Cole (QM2 70-72). Jack reported the 2020 Reunion would be held in Detroit, Michigan, June 11(Thu) -14(Sun), 2020. It will be held at Embassy Suites by Hilton in Livonia, MI. Price will be \$126.00 per night, which includes breakfast and afternoon refreshments.

Bill also reported that Bobby Harris (BT1 65-69) volunteered to host the 2021 reunion in Rhode Island.

And one more, Andre DiLullo (MM3 72-73) volunteered to host the 2022 reunion, location to be announced.

Bill now proceeded to select new Board of Directors. He first thanked Leo Dougherty (RM2 67-68) and Lee Gilbert (QMSN 62-64) for their service as Board of Directors for the past three years.

Bill now called upon our nominating committee, Dan Donohue (FTG3 65-66) and Jack Cole (QM2 70-72) to present the nominees. They are Andre DiLullo (MM3 72-73) and Lee Gilbert (QMSN 62-64). As there were no other nominees from the floor, Andre and Lee were installed as our new three-year Board of Directors. All in attendance approved.

Bill thanked everyone, shipmates, spouses, family and friends who helped with setting up and keeping our Buffalo reunion on a true and steady course.

Ray Bento (GMSN 56-60) reported that in the next five to ten years, the Navy would be building thirty new destroyers. He

suggested that we contact our congressmen and have them consider another U.S.S. Gearing.

Bill reported on the status of the Face Book page he created and the shipmates he has contacted to get them to join our Association. He also explained how Face Book works for those not familiar with it.

A discussion was had about ways to get another ship named Gearing. Getting the pictures you took while serving aboard Gearing to one of our web sites so the Gearing will remain present on today's information highway.

Bill reported on where we would be taking our group photos before dinner.

All shipmates in attendance now stated their names, rate or rank, and dates aboard. First time reunion attendees were John Howie (BT3 69-72) and Allan McKenzie (QM3 70-73).

Our Chaplain gave a closing prayer.

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

After our Annual Business Meeting, our final tour began. It was a 90-minute fun and informative tour of Buffalo's marina, canal side, outer harbor, grain silos, industrial heritage and downtown architecture. The tour was aboard an English Double Decker bus. Our tour guide was Office O'Connor, an Irish cop from 1860. He offered lots of info and free comedy as well.

A free afternoon gave us time to get ready for our banquet. After a few pictures, we settled down for delicious buffet. A DJ was provided for those looking to dance.

Thursday morning, 09 May 2019, was time for our Farewells and to Cast Off. Chatter about our 2020 Detroit was already starting

MAIL CALL

05 February 2019

My Rate was: HT1

I was aboard: 71

We will not make it to the reunion in Buffalo this year. Please extend our best wishes to all the shipmates and their families.

Bruce F. Putinas from CT

07 February 2019

My Rate was: BT3

I was aboard: 55-59

Due to Grand Sons wedding on the same weekend, we will not be at the 2019 reunion.

Joseph R. Dent from VA

07 February 2019

My Rate was: DC1

I was aboard: 57-60

I will not attend 2019 reunion.

Dorothy, widow of Allan B. Paul from NC

02 February 2019

My Rate was: PN1

I was aboard: 64-67

Thank you for all you do for the Association.

Randolph G. Smith Jr PN1 64-67 from NC

12 February 2019

My Rate was: EM3

I was aboard: 45-46

We're still OK. I'm 94 now and moving slow! Ugh!!!

Hugh G. Epperson from IL

23 February 2019

My Rate was: BT2

I was aboard: 48-52

Since I ended up with this nice envelope, thought I'd just say "Thank You" for the Gearing Newsletters.

Dot, widow of Fred W. Hoffman from PA

18 February 2019

My Rate was: RD2

I was aboard: 50-54

Sorry I will not be attending Buffalo, NY reunion this time. I will be in Pittsburgh for my two Great Grand Baby's Birthday's (1 year old). Thank you, hope to see everyone next year.

Joan, widow of Russell L. Sickles from FL

08 March 2019

My Rate was: MMFN

I was aboard: 57-59

I am writing to you to let you know my husband, William A. Underwood (MMFN 57-59), passed away February 2, 2019. He fought a good Battle trying hard to make it to our 60th Wedding Anniversary and he made it. Our Anniversary was January 22, 2019. He loved the Navy Dearly along with his family. He gave credit to the Navy for his strength to endure his fight with his illness. We always enjoyed his Navy Reunions and seeing his Shipmates. I am sending a donation to the U.S.S. Gearing Association in his memory, I know Bill would've wanted that. As I said before, he loved the Navy. He was buried in his uniform with a Navy Military Honor Guard that was sent from Washington, D.C. and our local VFW Honor Guards were there also. I will close for now. As Bill would say, "Permission to Leave the Ship Sir" and would be Saluting. Take Care and God Bless.

Pat, widow of William A. Underwood from VA

08 March 2019

My Rate was: FN

I was aboard: 52-54

EMAIL: harleycoy@aol.com

Enclosed is Scott's dues. We will not be at the reunion this year. Scott has heart issues. He is recovering slow but sure and is on a very low sodium diet. Not fun but it's working. Hope all's well with you and your family. We'll really miss seeing everyone. For sure next year.

Scott and Joyce Coy from OH

28 March 2019

My Rate was: ETSN

I was aboard: 50-54

EMAIL: wa3pft@aol.com

Maybe next year I will make the reunion. I miss all the good times, Tom and I had with the Gearing group. Enclosed is a donation in memory of Tom. Please keep my name on the mailing list. Say hello to anyone that still remembers Tom or me.

Betty, widow of Francis B. 'Tom' Howard ETSN 50-54 from MD

30 March 2019

My Rate was: GMG3

I was aboard: 66-69

EMAIL: sjkoller105@aol.com

Sorry we could not make it this year. Hope to see you next year.

John C. Koller from PA

30 March 2019

My Rate was: SOM3

I was aboard: 45-46

I haven't heard anything about our Chaplain, Tom Hughes and his wife Shirley. They used to send me a Christmas card but that stopped too. I hope all is well, but would like some news if you know anything about them. Thank you and smooth sailing!

Audrey, widow of Gene F. Benike SOM3 45-46 from WI

16 April 2019

My Rate was: SN

I was aboard: 57-60

We really enjoyed all the times we had with all of you. They were the best of times.

Maureen, widow of Roy W. LeClaire SN 57-60 from CT

26 May 2019

My Rate was:

I was aboard: 69-70

Served from 1969-70. Was CIC Officer prior to transfer in the fall of 1970. I have some great photo slides from our 1969 Med Cruise I would be happy to provide the Association.

Paul Turnau from VA

19 July 2019

EMAIL: gracey14@verizon.com

Thank you for your card of condolence. Frank was a proud Navy Man and Loved his country. He was sick for quite awhile but helped me plan his service. As our final tribute to Frank, we had him cremated and spread his ashes at sea where he was so happy.

Mary Mogavero (Widow of Frank J. Mogavero, SM3 62-64)

09 December 2019

EMAIL: IMMICHELETHIBADEAU@GMAIL.COM

Hi. My father is John Thibadeau (BM3 62-66). I am hoping to find someone on the Gearing who knows my Dad. He has Alzheimer's & parkinsonism and had to be placed in assisted living because Barbara died in January 2019. He doesn't remember her passing. Hoping someone would be willing to write a letter, even. As he hates the telephone. "nothing good comes from the phone." I have my email address, if anyone is willing and remembers him. Thank you for you service and kindness. Sincerely, Michelle

31 January 2020

My Rate was: RD2

I was aboard: 70-72

EMAIL: vanmccleendon@sbcglobal.net

Hello Old Salts,

I am considering attending the reunion June, 11, 2020 and I have not ever put my information on this site so I thought it would be a good idea to do it.

Van McClendon from AR

2019 REUNION ATTENDEES

Ray & Maria Bento & Guests	CT	GMSN	56-60
Ray & Pat Garceau	CT	QM2	68-71
Nancy Roberge & Judy	CT	QM2	68-72
Conrad Hebert & Margaret	DE	MM2	48-52
Ken & Pam Baker	FL	ETN3	62-64
Jack & Debi Cole	FL	QM2	70-72
Carl Lloyd & Cheryl	GA	RM3	45-46
John Howie	MA	BT3	69-72
Bob & Silvana Perreault & Camila	MA	QM3	64-66
Frank Goetschius	MD	LTJG	63-65
Allan McKenzie	MI	QM3	70-73
Philip Meilak & Matthew	MI	CSSN	62-64
Andre DiLullo	NJ	MM3	72-73
Jerry Casey & Missy	NY	GMG3	60-62
Dan & Maureen Donohue	NY	FTG3	65-66
Jim & Marilyn Peiffer & Family	NY	SKSN	62-64
Bob & Joan Witkowski	NY	FTG3	65-66
Charles & Ruth Ann Ankney	PA	SN	57-59
Paul & Sandy Cuny	PA	EM2	59-62
Gladys Flynn & Janet & Lori	PA	BTC	46-56
Lee & Becky Gilbert	PA	QMSN	62-64
Don Hilaman	PA	FTSN	52-54
Bob & Diane Harris	RI	BT1	65-69
Bill & Faye Latta	TN	PC3	65-67