



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Greetings Gearing Shipmates, Spouses, and Friends. I hope this finds you in good health and spirits. The 2022 Reunion is rapidly approaching, and Andre DiLullo (Reunion Chairman) advised me that details are mostly complete or have been completed for the Reunion. There will be a lot of free time to check out the Boardwalk places of interest near the hotel. Walking should be minimum for the memorial service and dolphin watching excursion. The ladies auction will be on Wednesday the 21st so bring your items to be auctioned. Military uniforms and accessories can be put up for auction plus new civilian clothing will be welcomed. Quilts and/or Afghans will be raffled off at the banquet. No one has volunteered to host the 2023 Reunion at this time. Please call or email me or Bob Witkowski if you would be interested in hosting the 2023 Reunion. We have some important items to be discussed at the General Business meeting on Wednesday concerning the future of the Association. Your attendance at the meeting would be appreciated. I hope to see you at the 2022 Reunion and try to bring some new sea stories. Take care and have a safe trip. Ken Baker

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.

2021-2022

- John William "Bill" Latta PC3 65-67
- Sharon, wife of Rodney E. Thompson RD3 63-66
- Linda, wife of Charles E. Crossfield SN 56-58
- Harriett, wife of Robert F. Mayne LT 64-66
- David M. Thomas RD3 62-64
- Dale M. Fogel RM2 50-53
- Janet, widow of Francis S. Ingraham LTJG 54-57
- William C. Bridges BT2 50-54
- James D. Wray SN 59-60

- John H. Gilbert SM2 64-65
- Charles E. McGregor RM2 70-71
- David I. Reisinger RM3 70-71
- Hugh G. Epperson EM3 45-46
- Ronald F. Guzmann TM3 58-60
- Mary, widow of Kenneth Haworth TM3 45-46
- Joan, widow of Russell L. Sickles RD2 50-54
- Doris, widow of Simon J. Czarniak EM1 45-46
- Barbara, widow of Edmond Travassos BM3 50-53
- Faye, widow of Kenneth L. Byrne LTJG 45-46
- John Erdody RMSN 66-67
- Janice, widow of John J. Slovack Jr. BTG2 51-55
- Robert L. Henold CS3 59-62
- Lorraine, widow of Earl K. Schneck BTG1 45-47
- Helen, widow of Frank Jasimas MM1 47-48
- Charlie Faye, widow of Marvin J. Forbes CSCS 59-62
- Cecile, widow of William C. Bridges BT2 50-54
- Randy Carmichael BMSN 60-61
- William Bruce Evans SN 62-64
- Harry Owens FTG2 50-54
- Richard A. White EN2 52-54
- Ralph Carson Jr. BT3 48-52
- Fred Dietelbach MM2 69-70
- Earl W. Eberwein SM 59-60
- Lester A. Bergman RM3 47-50
- Walter T. Adams FT3 49-52
- John V. Stockton SN 60-62

THANKS

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

2021

- William S. McFadden SK3 62-64
- William C. Basnett FN 56-57 , in memory of Bill Latta
- Gerard Clement RD1 51-55
- Thomas E. Mattingly STG3 64-66
- Arlene, widow of Arnold A. Anger GMGSN 56-58
- Diane, widow of David A. Decker SN 56
- Stephen K. Chadwick LTJG 62-64
- Donald, family of William A. Raleigh QM 70-72
- Larry Leaver ETR2 67-68
- Pat, widow of William A. Underwood MMFN 57-59
- Ronald J. Elwell PC2 68-70
- Frank W. Goetschius LTJG 63-65
- Thomas A. Turner III GMSN 65-67
- James R. Prass SHSN 67-68

Betty, widow of Francis B. Jr "Tom" Howard
ETSN 50-54

William D. Young SN 53-56

Joseph R. Dent BT3 55-59

Kenneth A. Baker ETN3 62-64

John R. Kelley EM2 63-67

James Martin Bauer MM2 63-66

Nick, in memory of Chester Wasilewski TM2 46-48

Elaine, in memory of her husband David M. Thomas
RD3 62-64

Eugene W. Potts RDSN 62-64

Lois, in memory of her husband Steve J. Peelish
FP2 53-55

William F. Mueller BT2 50-54

Ronald B. Leach IC3 62-65

Bobby Joe Harris BT1 65-69

Richard J. Hanley LT 55-56

GEARING ASSOCIATION TODAY

At the end of 2021, we had 493 names on our mailing list. There were a total of 129 dues paying members, 78 Honorary members, and 5 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 2022 dues notification is enclosed. Although we print a message on the dues notice that some of you had already paid their 2022 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 2021 WARWICK RHODE ISLAND REUNION

Our Thirty-Third Reunion in Warwick, Rhode Island began on Sunday, 12 September 2021. It was held at the Crowne Plaza Providence Warwick Hotel. Bobby Harris (BT1 65-69) 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, 13 September 2021 we boarded buses for our tour of Newport. Our first stop was for our Memorial Service, in a field overlooking the Rhode Island waters. Our next stop was for lunch at the La Forge Restaurant. We boarded our busses again for a tour of Newport. Our next stop was the Breakers Mansion. It was built for Cornelius Vanderbilt II. The Breakers is the grandest of Newport's summer "cottages" and a symbol of the Vanderbilt family's social and financial preeminence in turn-of-the-century America. After a long day of sightseeing, we returned to our hotel.

On Tuesday morning, 14 September 2021 we boarded busses for our Providence tour. For lunch we stopped at Camille's Italian Restaurant on Federal Hill in Little Italy. We returned to our hotel for a short downtime before our Ladies Auction. Our Auctioneer, Leo Dougherty (RM2 67-68), did a marvelous job and kept the evening entertaining and moving with the many item's shipmates brought to be auctioned off. At the end of the night, Pam Baker reported that \$1,285.00 was made at the Ladies Auction.

On Wednesday morning, 15 September 2021, our Annual Business Meeting started at 0930. It was chaired by Ken Baker (ETN3 62-64). Ken opened the meeting by stating that we would be holding elections for two Board of Directors, Chairman and Vice-Chairman positions. Ken reported that due to the passing of Chairman, Bill Latta (PC3 65-69) on January 26, 2021, a letter was sent out to all Officers and Board of Directors asking for their approval of Ken Baker (ETN3 62-64) moving from Vice-Chairman to Chairman and Frank Goetschius (LTJG 63-65) assuming the position of Vice-Chairman until a vote could be taken at our next reunion. All who were polled, agreed to these appointments.

Ken now called for any old business. Leo Dougherty (RM2 67-68) replied that since the beginning of our Association, we have been trying to have another ship named, U.S.S. Gearing. As of now, it looks like this won't happen. Leo said that the old Sampson Naval Training Station had one building still standing and they turned it into a museum. Leo gave them a picture of the U.S.S. Gearing that they would display in this building. Leo said this would give the U.S.S. Gearing

the status of living in perpetuity, as we always tried for.

Ken Baker said he received a picture of the U.S.S. Gearing from Hal Hollingsworth, (SM2 64-66), that Hal wanted it displayed somewhere. Ken brought it to the Museum of Military History in Kissimmee, Florida. They agreed to display it in their museum.

Ken now called on Secretary, Bob Witkowski (FTG3 65-66) to read the minutes from our 2019 business meeting. A motion was made and approved, not to read the minutes as they were already in an old newsletter.

Auditor, Ray Bento (GMSN 56-60) reported he reviewed Treasurer, Dan Donohue's (FTG3 65-66) records and found everything to be in order.

Ken now called on reunion hostess, Diane Harris, to inform us about tonight's banquet, the location and time.

Elections were now held for Board of Directors: Jack Cole (QM2 70-72) and Ray Garceau (QM2 68-71) were nominated and approved by those present.

For Chairman and Vice-Chairman, the Board of Directors recommended Ken Baker (ETN3 62-64) for Chairman and Frank Goetschius (LTJG 63-65) for Vice-Chairman. Both were approved by those in attendance and installed.

Ken now paid tribute to our two former Chairman who passed away recently, Bill Latta (PC3 65-69) and Carl Lloyd (RM3 45-56). Ken remembered them for their support in guiding Our Association to what it is today.

Our Chaplain, Ray Garceau (QM2 68-71) then recited the following poem:

Sailors pray,
For fair winds and a following sea
The smell of salt in the air,
The feel of their skin as it's touched by the spray
An albatross soaring above,
Dolphins in the ship's wake at play
To witness a work of art that only God can create,
The sunset at the end of day
At night a million stars in the sky,
Safe anchorage in an islands lee
When the time comes to die as for all it must,
To awake in Sailors Heaven where nothing ever rusts
And always there would be,
Fair winds and a following sea.

Ray Bento (GMSN 56-60) reported that he has kept in close contact with Faye Latta, widow of Bill (PC3 65-69). Faye wanted to attend the reunion this year, but her family advised her against it with COVID still making it rounds. Faye said she hoped to make a future reunion.

Ken Baker said that he would be attending another associations reunion in Nashville later this year and plans to get together with Faye.

Ken now called for any new business:

Nancy, wife of Frank Goetschius (LTJG 63-65), reported that her and Frank recently visited the U.S.S. Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. (DD-850), a Gearing Class Destroyer, at Battleship Cove in MA. She stated that the Kennedy was now a museum for all destroyers and not just the Kennedy. The museum is looking for any kind of artifacts from destroyers that they could display in their museum. The Kennedy also has work details during the year where you can help keep her ship shape. Please contact Frank Goetschius if you would like to participate in the museum displays or work details.

Don Hilaman (FTSN 52-54) gave us some info on the old Bainbridge, MD boot camp and training center for different rates. It is now a Naval Museum celebrating the former Bainbridge base in Port Deposit.

Ken Baker now asked if there were any volunteers to run the 2023 reunion. Leo Dougherty (RM2 67-68) said he would be willing to run another reunion in Tampa, FL if no one else volunteered.

Ken thanked Bobby (BT1 65-69) and Diane Harris for hosting our current reunion in Rhode Island.

Our Treasurer, Dan Donohue (FTG3 65-66) now gave his report. We have \$10,618.22 in our checking account and he received donations in the amount of \$1,015.00 from the following:

Betty, in memory of her husband, Tom Howard (ETSN 50-54)

Joan, in memory of her husband, Russ Sickles (RD2 50-54)

Bill Basnett (FN 56-57) in memory of Bill Latta (PC3 65-67)

Pat, in memory of her husband, Bill Underwood (MMFN 57-59)

Lois, in memory of her husband, Steve Peelish (FP2 53-55).

Dan also provided information he received on personalized walking sticks that contained picture of the Gearing, rate or rank symbol, any ribbons you received and a brief history all for the price of \$50.00 shipping and postage included.

Our Secretary, Bob Witkowski (FTG3 65-66) now gave his report. Our association list consists of 495 names. Of that number, 113 are dues paying members and 89 are Honorary members.

Bob now gave out membership pins.

Five-Year: 4

Allan McKenzie (QM3 70-73)

Ten-Year: 5

Jim Peiffer (SKSN 62-64)

Fifteen-Year: 12

Bill Houghton (ETN2 67-68)

Twenty-Year: 7

NONE PRESENT

Twenty-Five Year: 12

Bill Basnett (FN 56-57)

Thirty-Year: 12

NONE PRESENT

Ken Baker reported that the 2022 Reunion would be held in Atlantic City, New Jersey from September 18 to September 22. It would be hosted by Andre DiLullo (MM3 72-73). Details would be sent out at a later date.

Louise, widow of Allen S. Jefferis, (CDR 69-70) announced that she brought some of the awards Allen received while aboard the Gearing, and the Bronze Star he received while serving in Vietnam.

The meeting was adjourned. Souvenir battery powered lanterns were presented to all dues paying members present.

After some free time, it was now time for our Banquet. Pictures were taken, a delicious meal was presented, music and dancing were available for those wishing to participate.

On Thursday, 16 September 2021, it was time to Cast Off and say our Farewells. Thoughts began going through our heads of what 2022 Reunion Chairman, Andre DiLullo (MM3 72-73) was planning for us in Atlantic City.

MAIL CALL

08 February 2021

USS Gearing Family

On behalf of Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, Thank you for your generous donation to our Missions Ministry in memory of Bill Latta. Your generous and thoughtful gift is a very meaningful way to honor Bill's memory. His family will be notified of your remembrance.

Sincerely, Amy MacDonald

Admin. Assistance Finance and Operations

19 March 2021

My Rate was: SHSN I was aboard: 67-68

EMAIL: marty47@yahoo.com

I DIDN'T KNOW IF I WAS STILL CONSIDERED A CREW MEMBER. I ENJOYED SERVING WITH SOME OF THE BRAVEST MEN I EVER KNEW.

James R. Prass from OH

21 April 2021

EMAIL: Bus36@live.com

Nephew of Robert K. Calhoun MM3 55-59.

Jason Harris from GA

27 April 2021

My Rate was: MMFN I was aboard: 57-59

EMAIL: feltners4@yahoo.com

In memory of my husband, William A. Underwood (Bill), I would like to make a donation. He passed away February 2, 2019. He Loved his time in the Navy and his Shipmates. They were like family to him. God bless the US Navy and our United States of America.

Pat, widow of William A. Underwood from VA

29 April 2021

My Rate was: GMGSN I was aboard: 56-58

EMAIL: surefire042@aol.com

Stay well everyone, 82 and doing very well!

Arlene, widow of Arnold A. Anger from PA

29 April 2021

My Rate was: RD3 I was aboard: 62-64

EMAIL: dthomas017@centurytel.net

Just received Gearing News Letter. My husband Dave (David M. Thomas RD3 62-64) passed away April 5, 2020 after an 8 month battle with cancer. His friends on the ship remain and some of his closest friends even after 57 years. Phone, address and email is still the same. Thank you for the work you do for the association.

Elaine Thomas from MO

04 May 2021

My Rate was: FP2 I was aboard: 53-55

Thanks for always remembering me. As Steve and I loved to come to the reunions, I hope I get to come back. This is something Steve waited for each year. May God Bless all, hope to see everyone on the next reunion. My best to everyone.

Lois Peelish from WV

10 May 2021

My Rate was: ETSN I was aboard: 50-54

EMAIL: wa3pft@aol.com

Thanks for keeping me on the Mailing List. Tom and I spent many a Happy time at the Reunions. Maybe next year, 2022, the reunion is closer to my home. Keep the home fires burning. Hope this helps.

Betty, widow of Francis "Tom" Howard Jr. from MD

26 June 2021

My Rate was: STG2 I was aboard: 62-65

EMAIL: jsereno@verizon.net

Loved the Gearing.

John Sereno from VA

03 August 2021

My Rate was: TM3 I was aboard: 54-56

EMAIL: les710@verizon.net

Does anyone remember when the anchor chain broke and killed a shipmate in 1955 or 1956 ?

Rich Lesandro from FL

01 March 2021

My Rate was: STG2 I was aboard: 62-65

EMAIL: jsereno@verizon.net

Looking for Sonarmen from 1960-1965.

John Sereno from VA

01 December 2021

EMAIL: n8dog433@gmail.com

Aloha! My father was aboard this glorious vessel and I have found some relics you may enjoy! I am also curious about him and his shipmates as he passed when I was a young boy. Ronald Guzmann Was my father and I know he did med Mid East cruise 59-60 on the dd710. If anyone knew him, I would really like to talk! Blessings to you ALL and thank you for your service HOOOYAAAHAH!

Nate Guzmann from HI

2021 REUNION ATTENDEES

Louise Jefferis & Guests	CA	CDR	69-70
Ray & Maria Bento & Guests	CT	GMSN	56-60
Ray & Pat Garceau	CT	QM2	68-71
Nancy Roberge & Guest	CT	QM2	68-72
Bruce & Pam Putinas	CT	HT1	71
Bob & Silvana Perreault	FL	QM3	64-66
Ken & Pam Baker	FL	ETN3	62-64
Jack & Deb Cole	FL	QM2	70-72
Leo & Thi Dougherty	FL	RM2	67-68
Tom Turner	FL	GMSN	65-67
William & Beryl McFadden	MA	SK3	62-64
Frank & Nancy Goetschius	MD	LTJG	63-65
William & Lynn Houghton	MI	ETN2	67-68
Allan & Barbara McKenzie	MI	QM3	70-73
Andre DiLullo	NJ	MM3	72-73
Bill & DeLois Basnett	NM	FN	56-57
Bob & Joan Witkowski	NY	FTG3	65-66
Dan & Maureen Donohue	NY	FTG3	65-66
Jim & Marilyn Peiffer	NY	SKSN	62-64
Charles Ankney	PA	SN	57-59
Don Hilaman	PA	FTSN	52-54
Lee & Becky Gilbert	PA	QMSN	62-64
Gladys Flynn & Guest	PA	BTC	46-56
Burt & Elaine Goldstein	RI	EM3	53-55
Bobby & Diane Harris	RI	BT1	65-69
Sam & Roxy Stewart	VA	MM1	55-58