



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

NEWSLETTER # 1-23 05-29-2023

**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

From the President,

The USS Gearing DD710 Association had its beginnings in 1988 when a few shipmates got together to have a “few drinks” with many sea stories. The 2023 Reunion will be the 34<sup>th</sup> time shipmates will get together. Unfortunately, we are getting older, and it is getting more difficult to attend the Reunions and many shipmates have passed away. The people attending the Reunions has greatly decreased so during the last general meeting, it was decided to disband the Association after the 2023 Reunion by a unanimous vote.

It has been a great pleasure to attend many Reunions and meet shipmates and friends which I will always treasure. Thanks to all the shipmates, family, and friends who kept the organization going by volunteering to host reunions, helping with many functions at reunions, and keeping the Association functioning. A special thanks to Bob Witkowski and Dan Donohue for being the Association Secretary and Treasurer during the whole time the organization existed. Finally, thanks to our wives who put up with our nonsense over the years. Take care and keep in touch.

Ken Baker

**MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY**

In 1988 I saw a listing in my local newspaper for a U.S.S. Gearing (DD-710) reunion to be held in Newark. I called one of my shipmates, Dan Donohue, and asked him if he would like to attend. Newark is only about half an hour from our homes in New York City. After talking to the shipmate who was running the reunion, Leo Dougherty, I found out the reunion was being held in Newark, New York, a plane ride to Buffalo, a car drive after that, instead of just going over the George Washington Bridge. We got the last two seats on the plane which were the first row, facing the back of the plane. We made it to the reunion fine. I volunteered to print mailing labels for Leo as he was handwriting over fifty labels each time he had a mailing. What happened then? I was made Secretary and Dan was made Treasurer of the group. We were re-elected the next few years. After that nobody wanted to take over our positions, so we said we would remain as Secretary and Treasurer until we no longer wanted to serve. Well

after this reunion, I will be in my secretary position for thirty-five (35) years. It’s time for me to say I no longer want to serve. I enjoyed my position over the years and met and made many friends who were aboard U.S.S. Gearing (DD-710) during the time between 1945 and 1973. I will keep the www.dd710.com web site going for another year for those who still log into it.

**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 R. Handy SM3 64-66
- Eugene H. Emmons MM3 53-55
- Scott E. Coy FN 52-54
- Nancy, widow of Richard Owens FN 57-58
- Maureen, widow of Roy W. LeClaire SN 57-60
- Beverly, widow of Christian Ciampaglia YN2 52-54
- Richard I. Cook GM2 51-55
- Gerard Clement RD1 51-55
- Milt Deputy RD3 62-64
- James D. Hoeschen SN 62-64
- William Heine ETR2 62-65
- Thomas L. Yeargin SO1 53-56
- J. David Feiler RM2 45-46
- Luis Guinot Jr LTJG 58-60
- Carlton R. Richardson ENS 46-47
- Kenton D. Warner LT 67-70
- Warren W. Groeneman SOM2 45-46
- Robert C. Lander F2cEM 45-46
- Dale A. Potter FTG3 66-69
- Eugene E. Sheridan SN 57
- Edmund W. Elrick IC3 55-57
- Rosalie, widow of Edward C. Bishop CDR 45-46

## **THANKS**

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

Lillian, in memory of her husband, Paul Allen Lodwick RD2 45

Pat, in memory of her husband, William A. Underwood MMFN 57-59

James R. Peiffer SKSN 62-74

Hugh C. Humphreys LTJG 55-57

Raymond D. Garceau QM2 68-71

Ken Baker ETN3 62-64

Frank W. Goetschius LTJG 63-65

Ray Bento GMSN 59-60

Harold D. Hollifield MM3 55-58

Larry Leaver ETR2 67-68

Phil Meilak CSSN 62-64

Thomas A. Turner III GMSN 65-67

Martin S. Meislin YN3 64-66

Nick, in memory of his father, Chester N. Wasilewski TM2 46-48

Richie Roberts MM3 72-73

## **GEARING ASSOCIATION TODAY**

At the end of 2022, we had 467 names on our mailing list. There was a total of 108 dues paying members, 81 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.

## **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**

### **DUES WILL NOT BE COLLECTED ANYMORE!**

We are in the process of shutting down our Association and depleting our bank accounts. Please do not send us any more donations. We thank all those who made advance payments to us.

## **AT THE 2022 ATLANTIC CITY, NJ REUNION**

Our Thirty-Fourth Reunion in Atlantic City, New Jersey began on Sunday, 18 September 2022. It was held at the Resorts Hotel & Casino. Andre DiLullo (MM3 72-73) 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, 19 September 2022**, our Board of Directors Meeting was held. It was followed by a Lunch Buffet and free time. On **Tuesday morning, 20 September 2022**, a Breakfast Buffet was held. Shortly afterward we boarded a bus to take us to our Memorial Service at the New Jersey Korean War Memorial on the boardwalk. Our Departed Shipmates and Family Members were remembered at this time. Our bus then took us to our boat for a two-hour Dolphin Watching Cruise. Many dolphins, seagulls too, were seen with Atlantic City in the background. We returned to the hotel for free time. On **Wednesday, 21 September 2022**, our Business Meeting was held. It was chaired by Ken Baker (ETN3 62-64). Ken opened with a little story about our gavel and sounding block. Many years ago, our Departed Shipmate, Frank Schleis (BM2 45-46) had the gavel and sounding block made from the keel the U.S.S. Constitution, which is located in Charlestown, Massachusetts. Our Association Chairmen have used the gavel to run our meetings. When boarding the plane to get to Atlantic City, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) stopped Ken as they considered the gavel could be used as a weapon on the plane. After some time with the TSA, a way to transport these items was figured out.

Ken welcomed Association Members, wives and friends to the meeting.

Old business was first. Ken called upon Association Secretary, Bob Witkowski (FTG3 65-66) to read the minutes from the last reunion. A motion was made and passed not to read the minutes as they have already been in the last newsletter. Ken then called upon Association Treasurer, Dan Donohue (FTG3 65-66) for his report. Dan reported the audit report was sent to Ken Baker (ETN3 62-64), Ray Bento (GMSN 59-60) and Sam Stewart (MM1 55-58). Ken, Ray and Sam reported they found everything in order and that we accept the audit report. Dan reported that our banking and checking was handled by HSBC bank and they would no longer be able to serve us due to the small amounts we had in our accounts and that our funds were being transferred to Citizens Bank. Dan sent Citizens checks to Bob Harris (BT1 65-69) and Andre DiLullo (MM3 72-73) for reunion expenses. Neither one of them received their checks but someone stole them and wrote them for more than we had in our account. After making reports to various police people,

Citizens Bank and local news channel, this was finally straightened out and our money was returned.

Ken now called upon Secretary, Bob Witkowski (FTG3 65-66) for his report. Bob reported that his mailing list contains 467 names, of which there are 108 dues paying members, 81 Honorary members, which are widows of shipmates, and 5 Life members. Bob reported that our web page was up for renewal but with the small amount of dues paying members, he was wondering if he should still keep it active. It was decided to keep the webpage for an additional year. Bob then handed out pins for those present:

**FIVE YEAR:**

John W. Datre (ETN3 64-66)

John J. Rusnak (RDSN 71-72)

**TEN YEAR:**

None

**FIFTEEN YEAR:**

George P. Wiegand (MR3 68-70)

H.E. "Gene" Young (RM3 60-61)

**TWENTY YEAR:**

Andre DiLullo (MM3 72-73)

Harvey Ganly (BT3 55-58)

Raymond D. Garceau (QM2 68-71)

Warren W. Groenoman (SOM2 45-46)

Frank Schmidt (PFC 61)

Joseph J. Teklits (PFC 61)

Larry S. Vidoli (RM2 65-67)

**TWENTY-FIVE YEAR:**

William J. Beck (RD3 54-57)

James Howard Biresch (BT2 57-61)

Tommy A. Cooper (QM3 59-60)

Andre DiLullo (MM3 72-73)

Frank W. Goetschius (LTJG 63-65)

Kennon W. Webster (SN 62-64)

**THIRTY YEAR:**

Andre DiLullo (MM3 72-73)

Burton W. Goldstein (EM3 53-55)

John C. Koller (GMG3 66-69)

Larry G. Kraska (STG2 62-65)

Larry Leaver (ETR2 67-68)

Robert Ludema (SH3 51-55)

Robert F. Mayne (LT 64-66)

Philip P. Meilak (CSSN 62-64)

Robert F. Perreault (QM3 64-66)

Donald F. Ruggles (MM3 54-56)

Thomas N. Tuttle (GMSN 62-64)

Ken Baker now passed around a list of E-Mail addresses he has for people to check for any errors and add name if not on list.

New Business was next.

Ken thanked the Board Members whose three year term was up.

Jim Bauer (MM2 63-66)

Bobby Harris (BT1 65-69)

After approval by those present the following shipmates were selected for three year terms:

Ray Bento (GMSN 56-60)

Don Hilaman (FTSN 52-54)

A discussion was had about ending our Association. Ideas were brought forward for keeping the Association going for a year or two. Some said decide now because it would take a year or two to properly shut down and dispose of monies left in our treasury. Nothing was finalized with an actual vote but would remain open till next year.

Leo Dougherty (RM2 67-68) reported that anyone who was discharged Honorably, can now shop at a Navy Commissary or Exchange. This was just passed recently.

After our Business Meeting, the Ladies Auction was held. A lot of fun and laughs as well as money was made at the Auction. Pam Baker reported that \$734.00 was made at the Auction.

Those shipmates present now introduced themselves saying their name, rate and dates aboard and those accompanying them at the reunion.

The meeting was adjourned. Souvenir stainless steel water bottles were presented to all dues paying members present.

Later that evening, our Banquet was held.

On **Thursday, 22 September 2022**, it was time for farewell and castoff till the next time.

***MAIL CALL***

11 January 2023

My Rate was: EM2

I was aboard: 64-65

**EMAIL:** edsuebecker451@wowway.com

I was on the Med cruise September and was assigned to extra duties as the ship's photographer so I took lots of photos, some were shown in the cruise book. I enjoyed my time on the Gearing. By the way, when we returned from the Bay of Pigs we returned to Mayport, not Newark. I have a copy of the cruise Book from September to January I was looking through it and decided to contact you.

Edward L. Becker from MI

*2022 REUNION ATTENDEES*

Ray & Pat Garceau	CT	QM2	68-71
Nancy Roberge & Guest	CT	QM2	68-72
Ray & Maria Bento & Guests	CT	GMSN	56-60
Andrew .MacNamara	DE	TM3	54-57
Jack & Deborah Cole	FL	QM2	70-72
Ken & Pam Baker	FL	ETN3	62-64
Allan McKenzie & Marge	MI	QM3	70-73
Bill & Lynn Houghton	MI	ETN2	67-68
Tom Turner	MI	GMSN	65-67
Andre DiLullo & Jim	NJ	MM3	72-73
Bob & Joan Witkowski	NY	FTG3	65-66
Dan & Maureen Donohue	NY	FTG3	65-66
Leo Dougherty & Thi Ngyen	NY	RM2	67-68
Lee & Becky Gilbert	PA	QMSN	62-64
Don Hilaman	PA	FTSN	52-54
John & Sheila. Koller	PA	GMG3	66-69
Bob & Diane Harris	RI	BT1	65-69
Sam & Roxy Stewart	VA	MM1	55-58
Bill & DeLois Basnett	WV	FN	56-57