



1943



1972



THE BANG GANG NEWS LETTER

Published to perpetuate the memory of USS BANG (SS-385) and her Crew

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70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RECOMMISSIONING OF THE USS BANG (SS385)
4 OCTOBER 1952

LIEUTENANT COMMANDER PERRY HALL COMMANDING OFFICER





FPO



This column is dedicated to all the letters we receive from you. Any info about yourself or others you want to share with your shipmates will be published here. Think of this as a combination of the bulletin board in the Crew's Mess and the 1MC.

Hello Shipmates, Friends, Spouses, and significant others,

Well, after what seemed an eternity, the reunion issue is now finished. It only took three years, but I hope you enjoy it. The reunion was a great time that, I hope, was shared by all. The weather could not have cooperated more and thanks to my colleague Jennifer, the Doubletree Hilton was the perfect venue to enjoy our Nation's Capital. We had 40 attendees, a number less than other reunions, but this can be explained by the fact we had a couple of our usual attendees in sick bay, and there were a couple others that were attending other boat reunions that were on the same dates.

We gathered on Monday to register and get together with our shipmates and their guests, catch up on some long lost friendships and do a little sightseeing. On Tuesday we headed out to The United States Marine Corps Museum. It was quite a place. It traced the history of the Corps and highlighted the battles and training the recruits go through. The museum is brand new and sits on a beautifully landscaped area in Triangle Virginia, not far from the Marine OCS base in Quantico. If you are ever in the area, make a point to check it out. We then went to Mount Vernon and George Washington's home. The home has been faithfully restored, even to the original beige paint scheme which replaced the more familiar white. The guides were very informative giving a picture of the day to day life of the house and plantation that surrounded it. The gardens and fruit trees are still harvested, they had just finished this years harvest, and the view of the neighboring Potomac river was quite majestic.

The next day we traveled to the Washington Navy Museum and were treated with a guided tour, that is usually reserved and costs more, but the guide said since we were sub veterans we got in free. The Museum is split into two buildings. The larger of the two traces the history of the US Navy from the Revolutionary War up to Vietnam, and the Cold War. It has the original main mast of the USS Constitution and many scale models of ships from Sail to the Atomic Age. The neighboring museum housed more of the cold war and specialized on the submarines role in the long, almost fifty conflict. There are plans to consolidate both museums and have a large centralized museum, not unlike the present day Marine Corps Museum. We then traveled to the Lone Sailor statue on Pennsylvania Ave. for a photo shoot, finally ending up at Arlington National Cemetery, where we learned that the cemetery had a fear of bells! That night, shipmate Hal Wilkins wife treated us all to dinner of empanadas and beans and rice! The fact that there were no left overs was a testament to just how delicious it was!

Thursday was the business meeting, and that night the banquet and the tolling of the bell. We had a speaker that told us the story of the USS Houston CL-30 that was sunk by the Japanese in February 1942. He told us of the subsequent prisoner of war life of the survivors, who were used to construct the famous Bridge over the River Kwai. It truly exemplified the saying "War is Hell" All in all it was a good week and reunion.



SAILING LIST

USS BANG (SS 385) 79TH ANNUAL REUNION

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

SEPTEMBER 19-22, 2022

Gabe and Pam Lewis

Harry and JoAnn Ross

Eric and Sally Ericson

John and Terri Regish

Paul Schramm

Robert Bridle

Robert Notebloom -Guest of Paul Schramm John Stewart

Bruce and Doris Neiman

Harley Jr. and Jennifer Wilson

Alan and Linda Thole

Harley Wilson III

Hal and Edith Wilkins

Jim and Yolanda Klein

Gerald and Judith Holmberg- Guests of Jim and Yolanda Klein

Mark and Estelle Walerzak- Guests of Jim and Yolanda Klein

Ralph and Claire Gates

Lenny and Pauline Santos-Guests of Ralph and Claire Gates

Charles Dougherty and Christina Ziesmer

Bill and Joan Fenton

Charles and Patricia Archer

Len and Sharon Sciuto

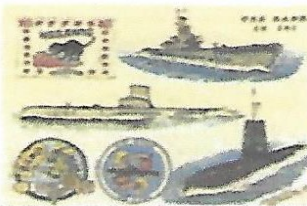
Jane Delong and Jean Marinari

Denis and Maureen O'Brien

Isaac Cohen and Michelle Ostapiej



Navy Blue Ballcap - \$8.00 ea.
Solid or Mesh top State Your Choice



6" Window Trilogy Decal
\$5.00 ea.

All orders are normally sold at our Reunions or shipped via USPS Priority Mail. Send mail orders to Isaac Cohen with your check payable to USS Bang and be sure to include a few extra bucks to cover the postage.

Please include your phone number in case of discrepancies. Mail to: Isaac (Ike) Cohen

PLEASE CALL ME FOR MAILING

ADDRESS AT:

908-334-0027

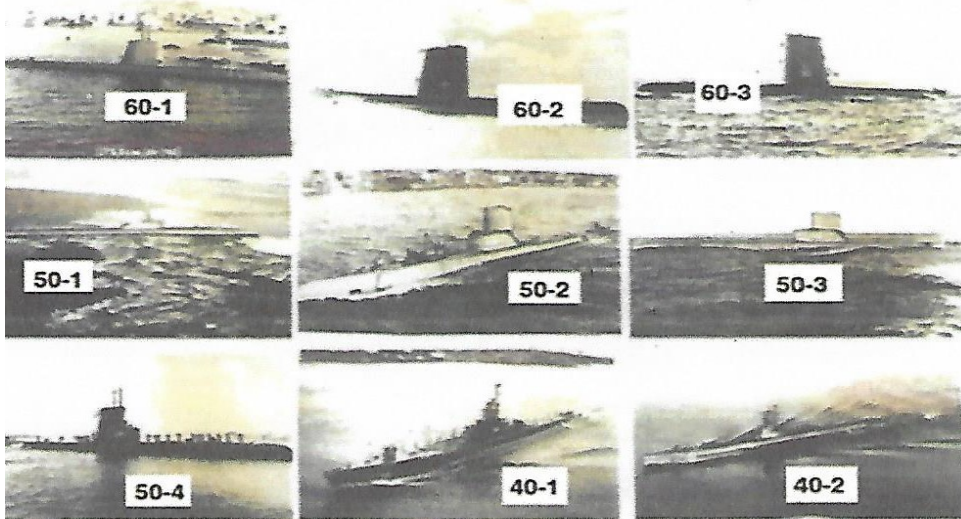


5" Jacket Patch - \$5.00 ea.
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1" Lapel/Hat pins - \$5.00 ea.
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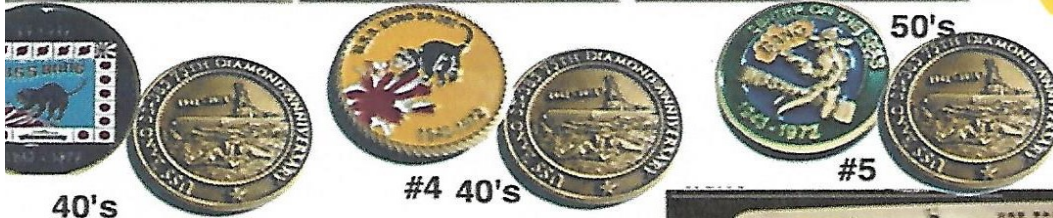
11x14 BANG Photos - 40's, 50's, 60's - \$3.00 ea. State Your Choice



Original Challenge Coins
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Our Boat Photographer and Communication Specialist First Class Doc Dougherty succumbed to the dreaded Covid-curse and was not able to join us, Marilyn Barrett and Len Faggotti weren't able to attend. However our President Bill Fenton and Store Keeper/Treasurer Ike Cohen stepped up and took some pictures. So many pictures that there wasn't space to exhibit them all. So I picked out a few to show everyone we really did go to Washington DC.

I will exhibit all the photos in the next newsletter. Bravo Zulu to Bill and Ike!

The pictures show depict a couple of the hospitality room, The Pentagon, the Navy Memorial "Lone Sailor" statue area and the Washington Navy Yard Museum. One picture of interest is the one with Bill standing next to a gentleman in a blue polo. His name is Vice Admiral Connor, and he saw us in the lobby and came up to say hello. He served on Nukes and always, so he says, wanted to meet Diesel Boat sailors. A very interesting person!

So stay tuned for the next newsletter, and see all the wild and crazy guys!





LOST AND FOUND



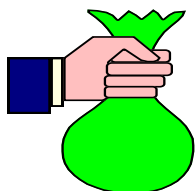
This page is dedicated to informing you of any additions, deletions, or corrections to our active roster.
It has been brought to our attention that the following shipmates have passed away and will be placed on Eternal Patrol.

RICHARD GAHAN IC (58-62)

J PAUL ANDERSON FT (62-63)

ANDREW McKAYE HMCS (54-57) RICHARD PETERFREUND TM (64-66)

SHIPMATES, REST YOUR OARS



THANK YOU!

Since our last publication, the following shipmates have generously donated to our slush fund.



**LARRY SCHAFER
RON TRAFTON
ERIC ERICSON
SUZANNE SAVAGE
ALAN & LINDA THOLE
JIM KLEIN
LEN SCIUTO
JANE DELONG**

**BRUCE NIEMAN
PAUL SCHRAMM**

IN ADDITION GENEROUS DONATIONS WERE MADE BY:

**SHARON SCIUTO DONATING HER SHARE OF THE RAFFLE
CHARLES "DOC" DOUGHERTY
HARRY ROSS
JOHN STEWART
WHO, WHILE IN SICK BAY, DONATED ALL OR PART OF THE
THEIR REGISTRATION FEE**

THE FOLLOWING SHIPMATES HAVE CHANGED THEIR ADDRESS

RUTH BUSH 1499 DUNCAN WAY, STREETSBORO. OHIO

COREEN COMEAU 5 PATRIOT LANE. GEORGETOWN, MA. 01833

**THE FOLLOWING SHIPMATE HAS CHANGED HIS ADDRESS
GEORGE LeBLANC geo.leblanc385 @gmail.com**



Richard Gahan— Richard “Dick” Gahan deployed on Eternal Patrol on 4 April 2022. He was predeceased by his loving wife Elizabeth, and is survived by his children, Daniel of Chicago, IL, Sharon Lawson and Amber Hollo-man of Temple Georgia. Dick served aboard the BANG as an IC man from 1958-1962. Dick was a frequent attendee to our reunions and could be counted on to regale all those within earshot with his varied and “colorful” sea stories. His infectious smile and booming laugh will certainly missed by all his shipmates.



Andrew McKaye—Andrew “Doc” McKaye went on eternal patrol 18 October 2022. He graduated from South Bend Central High School, South Bend Indiana in 1941.

He enlisted in the US Navy on 12 June, and was a veteran of the WWII, Korea, and Vietnam wars. After completing his Naval Career he attended San Francisco State University, where he received his teaching degree. For the next 24 years he taught and was librarian for South Fork High School in Miranda CA. Doc McKaye served on the BANG from 1954-1957 as a HM. He retired as a HMCS. He was frequent and generous donor to the slush fund and often included a little note asking how I was doing and how much he

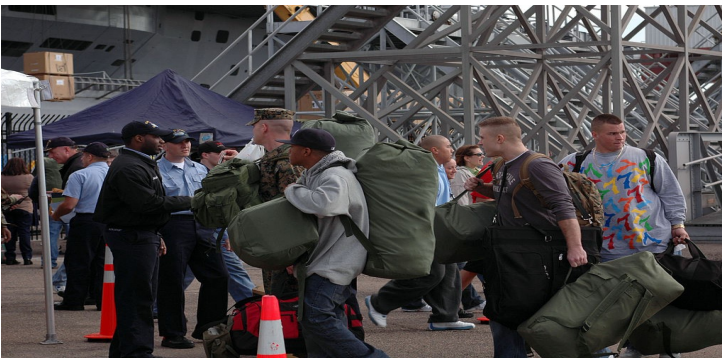
J Paull Anderson—J Paull left on Eternal patrol on 30 July 2022. He graduated from the US Naval Academy Prep School and attended the University of North Carolina and USAFI. He worked on advanced research for the Navy, Lockheed and Westinghouse on top-secret submarine weapons systems. He made the first three cold war patrols aboard the first FBM USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSBN 598). He served aboard the BANG (SS385) as an FT from 1962-63. J Paull was, in addition to his other talents, an accomplished painter. He studied under the acclaimed artist Andrew Wyeth, and was commissioned by



Jacqueline Kennedy, King Khalid of Saudi Arabia, and other notables. He received the Order of the Palmetto, South Carolina’s highest honor from Governor John West.

Richard Peterfreund—(no picture available) Our shipmate Peter deployed on Eternal Patrol on 9 July 2019. Peter was born on 11 February 1942. Richard was assigned to the BANG as a Torpedoman’s Mate from 1964-1966. He was living in Brooklyn, New York.





THE LUCKY BAG

A FEW THOUGHTS BEFORE WE HEAD OUT

You may have noticed that we had only three newsletters this year. Since the Fall issue was due to come out at the time of the reunion, I decided that we could skip it as it would have been somewhat redundant. Also, and very importantly, it saved us around six hundred dollars. This is very important as the cost of putting the newsletter out is, as we have said countless times before, our largest expense. At the business meeting, we spent a lot of time discussing ways to cut down on the expenses. One was reducing the number of issues a year. Another was reducing the number of pages in each issue. The cost of each issue goes up exponentially as the number of pages rise. As the number of pages increase, so does the cost of postage for each issue to be sent out to the crew and all the other recipients. We have usually stayed within the eight and twelve page issue parameter. The printer, Staples, needs to have each issue in multiples of four; so each issue will be four, eight, twelve, sixteen and so on. Four is too small, and sixteen, while doable is going to be several pages of “filler” a waste of money. So what is the best solution? As we have said many times, switching as many people to the e-edition issue is the best solution. One, it actually costs nothing to send out the issue and therefore we can have as many pages as we would like. Two, it’s in color and it goes out the day I take to Staples or the next day at the latest. Three, the cost of postage is only going to rise and that is an expense we have no control over. Of course, as I have said many times, there are those out there who like to have the paper in their hands, I’m one of them. But I can print it out and hold it in my hands. Finally, there are a few who do not have access to the internet and we will always provide a hard copy to you. Nothing definitive was settled at the business meeting, the board will assess costs and such during the next year, and we should have a definitive answer by the next reunion. Finally, the crew roster is getting smaller each month, which means our base for slush fund donations is also shrinking. We may reach the point, where it may be just too expensive to put out a newsletter. That is hopefully way in the future. The good news is that from now on and until further notice, I will be putting out four issues a year. And while we’re on the subject of issues...

You may have noticed that Ike’s address is missing from his Secretary and Treasurer masthead posting. This is because Ike travels to and from the Garden State, (AKA New Jersey) several times each year, and checks for the slush fund and small stores orders often pass in the mail, and delivery is slow. So, to remedy that, Ike requested that you call or email him when you want to donate or order, then he can tell you where to send the check so nothing will be delayed. You also saw the new small stores order form, again with no address. Save it, as this is the last time we will put it in the newsletter, until a new price list comes out. Cost saving. You can access the price list on the website, or if you don’t have access to the internet, or have lost the price list, you can call drop me a line and I’ll send you one. So don’t lose it. I know this is sort of gloom and doom for this time of year, but it is very important that we get the word out. Don’t worry though, good news is just around the corner!



And now for some heartfelt good news!

Well that raps up another year in Bang Gang Land, and it was not uneventful! Not the least of all finally getting together FINALLY! at our long awaited reunion. But before we put the cover on the old inkwell, there are more than a few people I'd like to thank for coming through and lending a truly helping hand to yours truly to insure the success of this too long awaited get together

First, all of you out there! We had to cancel the reunion twice and you did not lose hope and your encouragement helped me through some disappointing times. Thanks, it really meant a lot!

To Jennifer Wilson, my right, (and left) hand! She stepped up when our first hotel fell through, a sign maybe? She obtained the Doubletree Hilton, and secured an unbelievable rate that included greatly reduced parking, AND buffet breakfast for free! It was \$25.00 per person for even the penthouse guests! When they tried to pull a fast one on the banquet and meeting rooms Jennifer stepped in and made them wish that they hadn't even thought of such craziness. She was a god send, and I could not have done it without you! Thanks Jennifer.

To Paul Schramm, Mr. Costco, who always had the right answer and was always ready to help me get out a mess of my own making. Also to his friend and guest, Robert Notebloom, who had us all in stitches. I'm glad and honored to have met you.

To our money man and storekeeper supreme Ike Cohen, for his constant reassurance and words of encouragement! What a mensch!

To our President Bill Fenton, who fielded countless phone calls and provided the right course of action. I'm sure when he saw my name on the phone, "Oh Boy, What now?" came to his mind. Thanks sir, I really appreciated all your help.

I'd like to thank all the guests who attended. They added a very important and "special sauce" to our gathering. Your presence was appreciated by all, I can assure you!

Finally, to Sally my wife, who had to put up with two cancellations and still smiled. I think it was a smile.

Everyone at the reunion deserves credit for doing a good job, any hiccups or dips in the road were entirely of my making, and I apologize for that. So... Where to next year? Well the scuttlebutt has it...in New London! Our professionals Jennifer and Paul, are working on it with the help of Ralph and Claire Gates, (in advisory capacity only). More to come. If I forgot anyone, I apologize and here is a big



So from the Editorial Staff of the Bang Gang Newsletter, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



Eric H. Ericson, III-Editor
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Ft. Pierce, FL 34982-5163



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