



1943



1972



# THE BANG GANG NEWS LETTER

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

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Spring/Summer 2025 [WWW.USSBANG.COM](http://WWW.USSBANG.COM) [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/USSBANG](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/USSBANG) ISSUE-112



**THE ALL REUNION ALL ISSUE INSTALLMENT**

**OCTOBER 13-OCTOBER 17, 2025**

**DOUBLETREE BY HILTON**

**1201 RIVERPLACE BLVD. JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207**

**1-904-396-8844**

**YOUR HOSTS**



**LENNY & SHARON SCIUTO**



**JENNIFER WILSON**



**ROB BRIDLE**



# 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 IMC.

Hello Shipmates, friends and loyal readers,

The date for our 82nd annual reunion is getting closer, and though it is months away, it is not too soon to get ready to attend our get together in Jacksonville, Florida. If you haven't made hotel reservations yet, don't procrastinate! The deadline is September 21st, and room allotment is getting close to be filled up. If you haven't registered with the hotel I'd suggest you go to our website [ussbang.com](http://ussbang.com) and reserve. I used it and it was the easiest registration I think we've had in all our reunions. Lenny Scituo informs me that they are refurbishing some of the rooms, and if you have issues with the room you are assigned, let the hotel know and they will fix it. I have saved the instructions from the last newsletter that walks you through the process. Those without internet access can use the phone line provided call the hotel directly. A big Bravo Zulu to our President Bill Fenton for providing a great overview and descriptions for the weeks festivities. Speaking of festivities, your hosts, Lenny Sciuto, Bob Bridle, and Jennifer Wilson, (welcome back on duty from the binacle list), have put together a very fun filled and interesting stay in Northern Florida.

The fun starts on Monday October 12th, with the attendees getting settled in and renewing old times and sea stories with the shipmates. That afternoon, there will be a get together where we will have a cash bar cocktail hour to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States Navy.

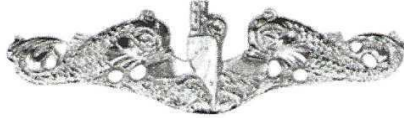
On Tuesday, we set sail on our first day of touring. After breakfast, we will muster at 9:15am to be on the bus when it departs at 9:30am for St. Augustine. The oldest city in the United States, St Augustine is also one of the prettiest cities in the US. The bus will drop us off at the Red Train tour depot and then it is off on an hour long non stop tour of the charms of old St. Augustine. Our knowledgeable tour driver will give a running description of all the wonders of the picturesque and charming old town. After the tour, the driver will let us off on St. George Street, the heart of Old Town St Augustine. Here you can wander through this pedestrian passageway and shop for all sorts of items you never knew you needed. Lunch is on your own, and there are plenty of spots to choose from; however Lenny suggests Harry's seafood restaurant for two very good reasons One, they will give us a 10% discount and two, and most importantly, it is where the bus will pick us up for the trip home. This is VERY important as we must be on the bus will leave for Jacksonville at 2:30 pm sharp. The bus will leave then and if you are NOT on it, it is a long walk home, or a very expensive Uber.

Wednesday the 15th we are on our way to King's Bay, Georgia to see the Submarine Base there, where we will have a tour of the Trident training center. Those of you who've seen their fill of subs can take part in the Cummins Museum tour. The museum is rated one of the best in Southern Florida, if not the entire county.

After the tours we will stop in St. Mary's Georgia, to have lunch on our own at the Riverside Café, which is next to the Submarine Museum. Be sure to bring your government issued picture ID with you. Later that night, those who have signed up for it will attend a interactive play entitled "The Mystery of Edwin Drood."

I will have more on that in the Lucky Bag; it is very interesting.

So, thanks to the hard , and I mean real hard work by your hosts, it should be a couple of exciting, picturesque, and informative couple of days. Don't put off registering for this reunion, or as they say, be there or be square.



-----Complete form, print and mail to:-----

Len Sciuto -- 1408 Course View Drive -- Fleming Island, FL -- 32003

**YES!, I/we plan to attend the reunion!** YEARS ON BANG:  TO  RANK/RATE:

FIRST NAME:  LAST NAME:  # YEARS IN USN:

ADDRESS:  PHONE: (  )

CITY:  ST:  ZIP:  E-MAIL:

SPOUSE'S/GUEST'S NAME(S):

ARRIVAL DATE:  DEPARTURE DATE:

**TUESDAY**

NUMBER ATTENDING ST AUGUSTINE TOUR:  @ \$55 PER PERSON.

NUMBER ATTENDING ALHAMBRA DINNER THEATRE:  @ \$75 PER PERSON.

**WEDNESDAY**

Note: Chose Kings Bay or Cummer Art Museum.

NUMBER ATTENDING KINGS BAY TOUR:  @ \$45 PER PERSON.

NUMBER ATTENDING CUMMER ART MUSEUM & GARDENS:  @ \$15 PER PERSON.

**BANQUET DINNER CHOICES:**

CHICKEN MARSALA  @ \$60 PER PERSON.

SALMON  @ \$60 PER PERSON.

FILET MIGNON  @ \$75 PER PERSON.

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS:

HOSPITALITY ROOM STIPEND PER PERSON: ;  @ \$35 PER PERSON.

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Len Sciuto**

**TOTAL: \$**

**MUST BE IN BY SEPTEMBER 1ST**

**GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE - WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE HOSPITALITY ROOM?**

BEER BRAND

SOFT DRINKS

LIQUOR/WINE TYPE

SNACKS

MIXERS





**Sent:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025 4:37 PM

**To:** jennifer@emergencyfleetservice.com

**Cc:** mobypequod@hotmail.com; Tracey Estep <testep@doubletreejax.com>

**Subject:** DoubleTree - Bang Gang LINK

Dear Jennifer and Lenny:

Hi, this is Karen; I assist the sales team here at the hotel. Your room block is open and ready for use.

Please share the following reservation information with your attendees:

**By phone** (available 24 hours a day) to **1-800-222-8733** and be sure to ask for “Bang Gang” or Group Code **91J** [nine-one-letter J]

**By Internet**—click on this link **Booking Link:** <https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?cityhcn=JAXJRDT&groupCode=CDT91J&arrivaldate=2025-10-13&departuredate=2025-10-17&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

**Reservation Cut-off Date** – as a reminder, reservations must be made before midnight on **Date 9/21/2025**.

**\*\*Be sure to copy and paste the entire link (it may be 2 lines long) in order for it to work properly\*\***

**\*\*\***The link lands on 10/13 departing 10/17. Once inside the link, use the calendar to adjust the arrival and/or departure date for a longer or shorter stay. **Be sure to Click UPDATE** and continue making the reservation.

Please let me know if you need anything else regarding your guest rooms. Do you want a rooming list once a month starting in March? Also, who receives the comp Junior Suite is it one of you? We can do the other upgrades and earned comps later on. ☺

Thank you for your Service and for choosing the DoubleTree by Hilton Jacksonville Riverfront!

With hospitality,

**Karen Padgett**

**Sales & Catering Coordinator**

p. 904-398-8800 x 4110 | d. 904.396.8845 | f. 904.396.8844

Doubletree by Hilton Jacksonville Riverfront  
1201 Riverplace Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32207

#### **Editor's Tip:**

There is a another room registration booking link in the USS BANG website. Several shipmates have already used it to make room reservations. You might want to try it. Also, if you do not have access to the internet, use the the phone number assigned to the Bang Group, it is open 24 hours a day, and it also has been used by shipmates and works well. We also have a “fail safe” contact phone number, 1-904-396-8873. The contact's name is Terry Estep, she should be able to help you. When you call, make sure you get a confirmation number, and the days you'll be staying. To access the BANG website, go to USS-BANG.COM, click on 2025 reunion, scroll down to and click on reservation form, click on the booking link and follow the directions. Easy Peasy as they say in the Coast Guard, so I expect many shipmates at the festivities in Jacksonville!



# 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.

**MARTIN "MARTY" CLIFFORD MM3 (SS) 70-71**

**DAVID IRELAND TM3 (SS) 66-69**

**DAVID BROWNLEE PUCKETT ENS 63**

**THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE HAVE GENEROUSLY DONATED TO THE BANG SLUSH FUND**

**ALAN THOLE**

**RICH PETINO**

**ISAAC (IKE) COHEN**

**WILIAM (BILL) ANDERSON**

**ERIC & SALLY ERICSON**

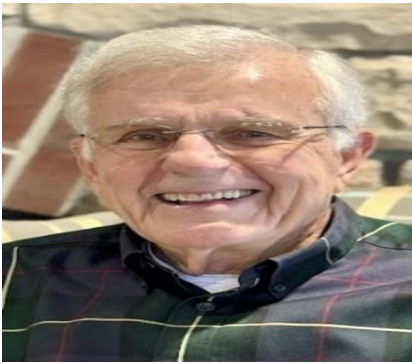
**LENNY SCIUTO**

**LEO GIBSON IN MEMORY OF KATHIE GIBSON**



## ETERNAL PATROL

**David Brownlee Puckett**– Shipmate David deployed on eternal patrol on 23Apr25. After graduating high school David attended the US Naval Academy, graduating in 1963. He was Brigade Commander in 1962, and escorted President John F Kennedy to the Army side of the field during the 1962 Army-Navy game. After graduation he was assigned to the USS BANG as an ensign and served from 63-64. His final posting was on the USS Patrick Henry. He completed his Masters Degree at Purdue University after his honorable discharge from the Navy, and began a 25 year career with Owens-Corning in 1970. He was president of the USNA class of 63 foundation, and the President of the USNA Alumni-Toledo chapter. David's ashes were interred in the Naval Academy Columbarium.



**Martin M. Clifford**-Shipmate Marty singled all lines and made ready for Eternal Patrol on 7APR25. Marty was a Navy “brat” and traveled the world with his parents Martin and Doris. Marty joined the Navy in 1969 and was honorably discharged in 1978. He served on the USS BANG and the USS Enterprise as a Machinist Mate. Marty and his wife Arlene were married in 1975 and were married for almost 50 years. After his honorable discharge, Marty and his family traveled the 48 contiguous states by car visiting every park, presidential library, camp ground and battle field they could find. A long time Boy Scout leader, Marty would give his time to help anyone who needed it. He was a voracious reader, passionate fisherman, and a lover of music.



**David Ireland**– David “Irish” Ireland departed on eternal patrol earlier this year. Dave was regular Navy, a rarity in the forward torpedo room in the sixties. Dave and I were running mates, stood lookout watches together, relieved each other on the helm, and with “Doc” Dougherty on the trim manifold, Dave on the stern planes, and yours truly manning the bow planes, we kept the old girl from sucking all the air from the control room while on a snorkel run. Dave's real time to shine was on liberty, many a morning, he just about made muster. Our leading petty officer Pat Moore was always after him to get a haircut, To say Irish moved to the beat of a different drum was an understatement. He was always on the verge of being on report, but escaped in the nick of time. I don't know how Mr. Krieger kept his sanity with Dave and I in WEPSDIV. You may remember how I described QM Andy's and my forays to the Crocker House, well Dave Ireland was also a member of the “usual suspects.” He was always ready to tell a sea story and quick to loan anyone a few bucks till payday, and never asking for it back. He was that kind of shipmate, and I will miss him.

# THE LUCKY BAG

**JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT  
WAS SAFE TO GO TOPSIDE !**



Well, now that we have discussed the main features of the reunion, let's go over some activities that are sure to peak the interest of even the most jaded attendee.

We are going to have a reunion long silent auction, to raise money for the slush fund. Our hosts have asked that you bring something of Naval, Military, handicraft, or other interesting gifts that will entice our attendees to purchase them and treasure them as fond memories of this week with our shipmates and friends. We have had silent auctions before and it has been a hit with the attendees. Let's continue the tradition.

As I mentioned before, one of the attractions that will be a dinner theatre production at the Alhambra dinner Theater in Jacksonville. The performance that those who sign up is called "The Mystery of Edwin Drood." It is based on the unfinished works of Charles Dickens and is a hilarious musical whodunit that was the first Broadway musical with multiple endings that allowed the audience to choose the murderer. These types of musicals are very popular and they really get the audience into the action,

The tickets are \$75.00 p/p and it will include dinner. At the time of this writing, the menu has not been provided but we will have it by next newsletter. We will use personal transportation to get to the theatre, and we need to get to Alhambra by 5:40PM. The doors will open at 5:45 for seating, menu confirmation and cocktail time with a cash bar. The dinner is from 7PM to 8PM, and then the show starts and runs up to two and a half hours. You can expect to be back at the hotel between 11:00 and 11:30PM. It sounds like a whole lot of fun, something we usually don't do on reunions. One caveat though, Lenny MUST have your answer by July 4th, because seating is limited and it will be first come first admitted. The reunion registration has the information, or you can contact Lenny if you've already sent in your reunion registration and pay later. I think it will be a lot of fun and another facet of why we in the Bang Gang have the best reunions. So make your reunion and hotel reservations now, if you haven't already and get ready to have another great week! To help to get everyone in the mood, here is the sailing list of those who have already signed up to see everyone in Jacksonville.

Lenny and Sharon Sciuto  
Gabe and Pam Lewis  
Eric and Sally Ericson  
Bill and Joan Fenton  
Harley and Jennifer Wilson  
Robert Bridle and guest  
Denis Obrien and guest  
Jim and Yolanda Klein  
Jim Hampton  
Harry and JoAnn Ross  
Len Fagiotti and Marilyn Barrett  
Jim and Harriet Schultz  
Rocco and Nancy DeLeo  
Ike Cohen and Michelle Ostojew

Well, that does it for this issue. I hope many more take the time to register for the reunion. Your hosts Lenny, Jennifer and Bob have done a great job and put in a lot of hard work to make this get together a great time. Help make it even better by signing up to see your old running mates again!

One last thing, in last issue, our president shared some pictures of the BANG post handover, and if you missed it there was a picture of the "guppies" all lined up. Beside them was a former HMS or HMCS "bottlenose" boat, and even farther away, almost invisible was a former Fletcher Class destroyer with the original five turret 5" guns on board. Truly a blast from the past!

Take care, and I want to see everyone in Jacksonville!

Eric



Eric H. Ericson, III-Editor  
Bang Gang Newsletter  
926A Savannas Pt. Dr.  
Ft. Pierce, FL 34982-5163



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**PRAISE OUR MILITARY! - AND PRAY FOR THEM TOO.**

