



1943



1972



# THE BANG GANG NEWSLETTER

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

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ISSUE-49

## Bert S. 'Pete' Bates

## Anthony A. DiBella



1924—2008

1923—2008



# LOST AND FOUND



**This column 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.

**James H. Parscale, QM (51-52) ComCrew2**

**Robert H. Amundson, HMC (51-52) ComCrew2**

**Anthony A. DiBella, MoMM (44-46) WP1,2,3,4,5,6**



**James W. Mulholland, FCS (45-46)**

**Joseph L. King, TM (45-46)**

**Robert M. Morrison, Officer (59-60)**

**David Sam Romig, Officer (45) WP6**



**Bert S. "Pete" Bates, GM (43-46) WP1,2,3,4,5**

**Earl E. Davy, FN (59-61)**

**SHIPMATES, REST YOUR OARS!**

**The following shipmates have changed their mailing address.**

**Please let us know when your address has changed or you may not receive the next Newsletter.**

LASTNAME	FIRSTNAME	ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIPCODE	PHONE	Y-O-B
Paul	Willard	2981 Lake Tahuyeh Rd	Bremerton	WA	98312-9125	(360) 830-9245	66-67
Trujillo	Mary	721 N Rose Dr Apt 110	Placentia	CA	92870-7589		Wife
Vincent	Donald A	9798 SW Eastbrook Cir	Port Saint Lucie	FL	34987-2428		63-65

**The following shipmates are new (found) additions to our roster. Your committee is thankful for all your help in locating them and we will continue our search until we have attempted to locate everyone.**

LASTNAME	FIRSTNAME	ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIPCODE	PHONE	Y-O-B
Cappuccino	George J	1285 La France Ct	The Villages	FL	32162-8770	(352) 350-2386	62-64
Chiarito	Michael	2452 Hingham Ct	Woodbridge	VA	22192-3514		71-72
DeGal	Paul M	5073 Chapman Pkwy	Hamburg	NY	14075-5514	(716) 627-7077	51-52
Fedyna	George E	250 Yorkshire Dr	Fox River Grove	IL	60021-1882	(847) 516-2109	66-69
Schramm, Jr	Paul J	3402 Onondaga St	Kalamazoo	MI	49004-1636	(269) 345-0859	70-71



## THANK YOU!

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



**Ike Cohen  
Cal Cooter  
Billy Cromie  
Ed Elliott  
Dick Evins**

**Gene Gauthier  
Carl Hagenkotter  
Tom Hill  
Charles Kimball**

**Earl Lamb  
Joe Leonardi  
John Monroe  
John Murray**

**Jack Myers  
John Regish  
David Santoriello  
Stu Savage**

**Matt Schmitz  
Paul Schramm  
Dominick Volonino  
Bill VonDerLieth**



**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.**

**Editor's Notes and Ramble:** Hi Shipmates!

Please make note that my PO Box number in NY is no longer 88. I have recently been able to secure Box 385 so I made the change. This simplifies my life just a little bit more as I now have one less number to remember.



**Anthony A. DiBella (Augugliaro)** MoMM (44-46) WP1-6, just missed putting BANG into commission but he was one of only ten shipmates that made all six of her War Patrols - eight of which are now deceased. Of the remaining two, one's whereabouts is unknown, and the other remains on our mailing list.

Tony didn't attend too many of our Reunions that I attended so I never got the chance to really get to know him. What I do know about him though is that he and **Dan "Rosie" Rosenfeld** were real close. Not just "running mates" but more like brothers. So, even though it saddens me to lose another one of my heroes, Rosie's loss is much greater and it goes beyond reckoning how he felt to be the bearer of such sad tidings. Rosie, I wish there was something I could have done to lighten your load.

Anthony DiBella, age 84 of Warren, died Tuesday, June 10, 2008 at St. John Macomb Hospital Center in Warren, OH.

Anthony was born December 03, 1923 in Clairton, PA, the son of the late Angelo Augugliaro and the late Concetta (nee: Dibella) Augugliaro.

Anthony graduated from high school in Clairton and then served his country during World War II in the Navy aboard submarine USS Bang SS-385. After his military service Anthony returned to Clairton and married Gloria (nee: Adamo) in 1947. He and his wife then moved to Michigan and Anthony went to work for L. W. Kennedy woodworking. Anthony again would be called into military service during the Korean War and served aboard USS Bashaw SS-241. He returned to Michigan and went to work for Fisher Body as a wood model maker. Anthony retired from

General Motors Fisher Body after more than 30 years.

After Anthony retired he loved to tinker with any problem or broken item, and spend time gardening. His family said he was a "Jack of all Trades". He was a faithful member of his church, and also a member of the Sub Vets, veterans who served on submarines. He enjoyed the annual Sub Vets conventions and the many parades they attended. Anthony's passion in his life was spending time with his family and going to his home in Port Sanilac.

Anthony is survived by his beloved wife Gloria; children, Elayne (Ron) Sollars, James DiBella and Joseph (Kathy) DiBella; grandchildren, Michael (Erica), Jon (Sandi), Patrick, Steven, Jeffrey, Michelle, and great-grandchildren Jason, Scott, Brandon and Abby.

**David Sam Romig** was an Officer aboard BANG during 1945 and was aboard for War Patrol 6. Shortly thereafter BANG returned to Portsmouth, NH for repairs and David was made XO until he departed a couple of months later. His daughter, Patti informed me of his demise and included the following obituary:

David Sam Romig, 89, passed away on July 19, 2008, in Rancho Mirage, CA. Sam was born in Alliance, OH, on June 12, 1919, to D. M. Romig and Mary Bess Rowland Romig.

He graduated from Uhrichsville High School in 1937 and attended Denison University. He served in the United States Navy beginning in 1940, achieving the rank of Lt. Commander. Sam owned the Romig Insurance Agency until his retirement in 1984. He served on the board of directors for the United Bank of Uhrichsville and was a longtime member of the Elks, Eagles, Masons, Rotary Club, the Union Country Club and the Ohio Christmas Tree Growers Assn. Sam moved to Palm Desert, CA in 1986 and volunteered at the Eisenhower Medical Center for 13 years. Sam was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Jean Baer Romig. He is survived by his daughters, Patti Pittenger and husband, Emmett, and Joyce Capobianco and husband, David. He also left four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A private memorial service was held by the family. The family wishes any memorial donations be made to the donor's favorite charity.



**Bert "Pete" Bates**, GM (43-46) WP1-5, put BANG into commission in 1943 and, with the exception of six months in 1945, stayed aboard her until she was mothballed after the war. He was my first contact when trying to sign up for a BANG Reunion—only to be told that I was too young. He then contacted me a couple of years later and invited me to attend BANG's

50th Reunion in Portsmouth, NH. Our initial meeting was probably no more than a handshake but, during the many Reunions to follow, I got to know Pete more and a freindship grew founded on camaraderie and respect. He was one of my heroes and, like those before him, I will dearly miss his presence at the Reunions,

**Carl Weber** e-mailed me notification of Pete's passing and Pete's widow, Shirley mailed me the following obit:

**Bert Samuel 'Pete' Bates**

Feb. 21, 1924 — July 27, 2008

Bert Samuel "Pete" Bates died of congestive heart failure in his Port Angeles home. He was 84. He was born in McArthur, OH to Bert Samuel and Florence (Austin) Bates.

He joined the Navy in 1941. As a member of the Submarine Service from 1942 to 1971, he served on 11 boats and was chief of the boat on the *USS Sablefish* and *USS John Adams*. He was awarded the Silver Star twice as well as the Submarine Combat Pin with four stars and commendations. While on active duty, he lived in Groton, CT, Portsmouth, NH, and Key West, FL. In addition to watercraft, Mr. Bates enjoyed fishing, hunting and gardening.

Mr. Bates married Shirley Palmer in Carson City, NV on April 18, 1988.

He was a member of Elks Naval Lodge, Fleet Reserve Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars and USS Submarine Veterans of World War II.

Mr. Bates is survived by his wife, son Peter Bates of Westbrook, CT, and daughter Sandra Bates Hinck of Orinda, CA.

**Services:** At his request, none. Inurnment will be in Arlington National Cemetery, VA.

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**Robert H Amundson** was a Chief HospitalMan when he reported aboard BANG as part of her short-lived 2nd Commissioning Crew. He once told me

that the Target he served aboard during WWII almost got shot out from underneath him by a U-Boat. And, then and there he decided to become a submariner because it was far better being on the sending end instead of the receiving end. After BANG's 2nd decommission notice was executed, Bob was transferred to Balao (SS285).

Bob's widow Sybil notified me of his passing and I extracted the following obit from the newspaper.

AMUNDSON, ROBERT H. SR., 84, of Holiday, died Monday (May 22, 2006) at Marliere Hospice Care Center of New Port Richey. He was born in Mina, SD, and came here years ago from Levittown, Pa.

He was a retired Navy veteran with 21 years of service and later retired from the U.S. Postal Service. He was an avid traveler.

Survivors include his wife of 20 years, Sybil; two sons, Robert H. Amundson Jr., Vineland, N.J., and Richard, Pocono Lake, Pa.; two daughters, Mary Suso Ensell, Peachtree City, Ga., and Louise Phillips-Piper, Spring Hill; a sister, Vonnie Hullet, San Jose, Calif.; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.



**Robert M Morrison** reported aboard BANG fresh out of Sub School in January 1959. Within a month he was getting his feet wet on a "Northern Cruise". Quite an indoctrination into Submarine Life for a young Officer. After that trip Bob was well on his way to getting qualified and, after doing so, he left BANG and went on to Nuc School in September 1960. But, not before going on a SUBICEX Cruise earlier that year.

**Gene Gauthier**, XO at the time when Bob was aboard BANG forwarded me the following Obituary that he received from Bob's widow, Susan.



Captain Robert McKay Morrison (USN Ret) died Monday, August 18 at Queens Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. He was 75.

Captain Morrison was born January 20, 1933, in New York City he was raised in Arlington, Virginia, and graduated from George Washington High School in Alexandria, Virginia. In 1955, he was commissioned in the NROTC program and received a Bachelor of

Mechanical Engineering from Cornell University. He then served in USS Noa (DD841) and USS

Joseph K. Taussig (DD1030). After attending Submarine School in 1958, he reported to USS Bang (SS385), followed by Officer Nuclear Power Training in 1960. His first nuclear submarine was USS Tinosa (SSN606). He then became Executive Officer of USS Alexander Hamilton (SSBN 617) (Gold). In 1967, he became Commanding Officer of USS Benjamin Franklin (SSBN 640) (Blue).

Shore duties included tours at Commander, Anti-Submarine Warfare Forces, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk; Headquarters US European Command, Stuttgart, Germany; and Assistant Chief of Staff for Strategic Systems at Commander, Submarine Force, US Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor.

Following his retirement from the Navy in 1981, he served as the Hawaii Manager for Sonalysts, Inc. of New London, Connecticut, Director of Facilities Services for Kaiser Permanente, and as an energy conservation consultant. He was past President of the Aloha Chapter of the Naval Submarine League, served on the Board of Directors of the Pacific Fleet Submarine Memorial Association, and was a member of the Honolulu Council of the U.S. Navy League.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Susan Keyes; sons Robert McKay, Jr. and Thomas Charles; daughter, Carolyn Avery "Cammy" Bean; six grandchildren; and his brother, Commander Lawrence Alexander "Sandy" Morrison (USN Ret.).

A memorial service was held at the Pearl Harbor Submarine Base Chapel on Saturday, August 23. Interment with full military honors will take place at Arlington National Cemetery December 8.

as a senior chief fire control technician, following a twenty three years career. He served aboard the heavy cruiser U.S.S. Louisville during World War II before joining the submarine service. He served on submarines U.S.S. Scamp and Guavina, completing nine highly successful war patrols. He also served during both the Korean and Vietnam wars on numerous submarines, including U.S.S. Patrick Henry, Ethan Allen and John Marshall.

He then worked at Sperry Corporation as a field engineer before moving to Electric Boat in Groton as a test engineer in the FBM Missile Fire control division. He retired in June 1988 after 20 years.

He was a life member of the VFW and the Submarine Veterans of WWII and an active member of the New London Squadron of the U S Power Squadrons.

In addition to his wife he is survived by a son, James Colin Mulholland and his wife, Lynn, of Salem; two daughters, Delia Lima and her husband, Arthur, of Stonington and Gerry Mulholland and her husband, Robert Halligan, of Quaker Hill; and a brother, Charles Mulholland, of Deltona, Fla. He is also survived by six grandchildren, Stephen Lima, Tracey Bacon, Colin Mulholland, Rachel Mulholland, Sean Mulholland, and Pierce Mulholland; four great grandchildren, Delaney Lima, Andrew Lima, Dannika Bacon, and Nikolas Bacon.

He was predeceased by his brother, Paul Mulholland and his sister, Charlotte DeCesare.

Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be directed to Hospice of Southeast Connecticut, 227 Dunham St., Norwich, CT 06360.



**James W Mulholland**, a FireControl Tech, reported aboard BANG in Portsmouth, NH 1945 after she returned from the Pacific. He was like so many other Submariners looking for a new home as their Boats were being mothballed. He stayed aboard for about a year until shortly thereafter, BANG was also mothballed.

Jim's wife, Mary notified us of his death. The following obit

was in the New London Day.

James Wellington Mulholland, age 84, died Wednesday at Sava Healthcare at Bridebrook in Niantic.

Jim was born in Boston, Mass., on Sept. 5, 1923, the son of James Daniel and Delia Davis Mulholland.

He married the lovely Mary Mackenzie Mulholland on June 10, 1945, in Boston; she survives.

He retired from the United States Navy in June 1967

The following e-mail informing us of the death of **Earl Davy** was sent by his cousin who is also a Submariner.

"My name is Bill Davy. My cousin Earl and I served on the USS Pompon (SSR267) until it was de-commissioned in 1959 at Charleston, SC. I was reassigned to the USS Diablo (SS 479) and Earl was sent to USS Bang (SS 385) in May of that year.

Your website lists Earl's whereabouts as unknown. He passed away on January 2, 2006 at the age of 66. He had moved to Phoenix, AZ after retiring from the Chicago Police Department. He was buried in Chicago."

*Lord these departed Shipmates with Dolphins on their chest,  
Are part of an outfit known to be the best.  
Please welcome them and offer them your hand,  
As you no doubt know they're the best in the land.  
And also heavenly Father add their name to the roll  
Of our departed Shipmates who serve on Final Patrol.  
Assure them all that we, who still survive  
Will always keep their memory alive.*

Updating the health of **Len Fagotti** EN (63-66), we were happy to see him in attendance at our Reunion in Green Bay and looking in good shape. On the down side, **Harry Ross**, ST (64-66) notified me in July that **Al Mace**, MM (63-66) was put in sick bay after experiencing a heart attack. Since then he has had some bypass surgery and by now, hopefully well on his way to complete recovery. We missed you in Green Bay Al but plan to see you next year in Virginia Beach.

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Some of the correspondence I receive from time to time is from the wives of shipmates who are deceased and it still amazes me that they are still interested in the Bang Gang and Submarines in general. I can only imagine what great support they were to their husbands when they were alive.



One such person is **Rose Jarvies**, widow of Jack Jarvies. Jack was a Submarine Sailor for most of his career and life. A lieutenant aboard BANG in 1957 and later the CO of Carbonero SS337. After retirement he continued to be greatly active in the SubVets, joining a local Base and

holding various seats on the "E" Board including Base Commander.

Now you would think that upon his death Rose would have said "*that's enough of Submarines for me*". But, no, not Rose. She not only continued to be active in the SubVets, she now holds the position of Base Commander of the Women's Auxiliary. Congratulations Rose! I know Jack is proudly looking down upon you. If there is such a thing as a Honorary Submariners pin, You definitely deserve to wear it. And, that also goes for all other Submariners wives who fit this billet.



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**Marvin Christenson**, ET (56-58) tells me that his father-in-law served in the SeaBees during WWII and this was his rating patch. Chris has been trying to find out what the "G" inside the diamond signifies but, no luck so far. Anyone out there know what the insignia means? I told him that I thought it meant that

he was a Groundskeeper at the baseball field.

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**David Santoriello**, son of **Blazie Santoriello**, GM (45, WP6), would appreciate receiving any

correspondence from all who served with his Dad (including **Don Corzine**) on board BANG during War Patrol #6. David can be reached by e-mail at [DrZeke1@aol.com](mailto:DrZeke1@aol.com) or his USPS mailing address is:

**4086 Robinhood Dr  
York, PA 17408-9422**

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Not all of the e-mails I receive bear sad news. Every now and then one comes along that makes this job well worth while.

I recently received a request from Marla Hall, Granddaughter of **Jesse Bass**, StM (44-46, WP4,5,6). She introduced herself and then ask if I might have a picture of her Grandfather. Looking through our WWII book of memories I came across four photos of Jesse so I copied and e-mailed them to Marla. The next thing you know I am receiving another e-mail from Marla carrying on about how delighted her Grandmother, Jesse's wife, was to receive them and that she owed me a debt of gratitude for sending them. She went on to tell me that Jesse and Grandma had fifteen kids. Marla's Mom is the oldest at 49 and an Aunt, who is the youngest, is 28.

So Shipmates, the next time you are thinking of discarding old photos relating to the Bang Gang, send them to me instead. What you may think of as worthless could mean the world to someone else!

**The writings and material within this Newsletter are the sole responsibility of its Editor and in no way reflect the opinion of its readers, the Bang Gang. ....Phil Beals**

**Billy Cromie**, an ElectriciansMate (64-71), "Just a short note to correct my shipmate, and Snake Ranch mate, **Ray Olszewski's** faded memory.

The name of the town was Westbrook, CT and the bar was the Brass Rail. The owners were Floyd and Vera (forgot their last name). Floyd was in WWII and spent a good deal of the war in a Nazi prison camp. **Harry Ross** also lived at the Ranch. So did 'cannonball', who's name I don't remember. Cannonball was very strange. The fireplace that Ray spoke about was really big. Cannonball became a hermit and lived in it for two weeks.

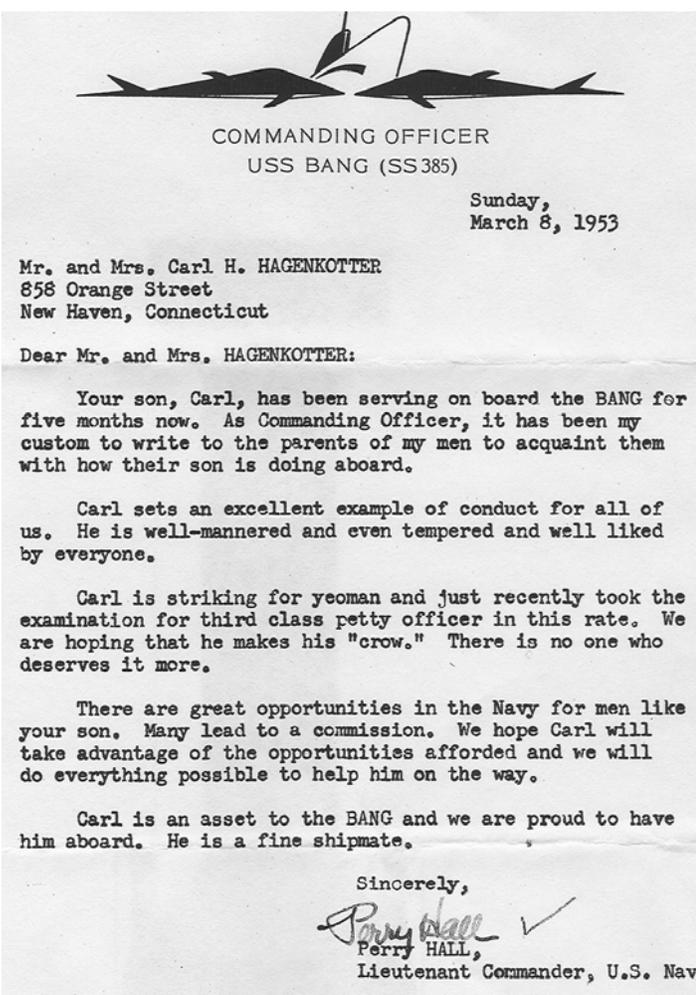
That was a good group of guys and Ross and I could tell you some tales about that place that no one would believe.

I'm using snail mail because our US Postal Dept is losing money and needs help. I read in the paper that when a Postmaster moves they pay his moving expenses, closing costs, etc. And, in one case, even bought one a new house.

Also, I wanted to put a couple of sheckles in the Slush Fund and I can't do that on line because

**Lockwood** isn't hooked up to PayPal." .... *Billy, always nice to hear from a fellow 'upstater'. Thank you for the generous donation and for clarifying Ray on his Snake Ranch story. How about you and Harry showing up at our next reunion so you can entertain us 'boots' with some of those salty stories we wouldn't believe.*

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**Carl Hagenkotter**, a YoemaN (52-54) ComCrew3, "I found something that to me shows the kind of skipper we were all fortunate to have and I wanted to share it with the Crew. My Dad was 94 when he passed away and Mom gave me many interesting papers to look over. The enclosed letter from **Perry Hall** to my parents was among them. What makes it so important to me is this is the only letter my parents received from any of my skippers. I know Mrs. Hall knows the type and calibre her husband was but maybe this would bring back fond memories of such a wonderful man." .... *Carl, thanks for sending along the fine piece of memorabilia from Perry. I will keep it in our record book for all shipmates to see.*

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**Mike Chiarito**, a MachinistMate (71-72), "Last week while visiting San Francisco, I went on the

USS PAMPANITO (SS-383), which of course, was the same class as the BANG. It brought back a lot of memories. After a while I was giving the tour guide a tour and he seemed to enjoy it. Just for the heck of it, I did a "Google" search on BANG and found your web site.

I was assigned to the Aft Engine Room, which suited me just fine. In the short time that I served, we overhauled numbers 3 & 4, the latter was mostly done out at sea. Some parts had to be dropped by helicopter. It was an exciting time!

I was sorry to see it go to Spain. I later saw a picture of it while it was part of the Spanish fleet, when I was working on a Co-op assignment with MPR Associates in the early 80s." .... *Mike, thank you for making contact with us. By now you should be enjoying our Newsletter and thinking about attending one of our Reunions.*

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**Earl Lamb, Jr**, a TorpedoMan (56), "When I saw **Lou Ulrich** in Groton wearing his BANG hat I introduced myself, telling him when I attended Sub School in 1956 that USS BANG was the first submarine I had gone to sea on—as a sub school student. I am glad that he sent you my name and have enclosed a check in hope that you will add me to your mailing list.

I read the three issues you mailed to me and enjoyed them very much. After doing 28 years in the Submarine Force, I am very much interested in any and all material like your Newsletter." .... *Earl, welcome aboard, again. Though you served on 525-Grenadier and 684-Cavalla, we have added you to our mailing list. Thank you for your Slush Fund donation.*

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**Dick Evins**, an ElectriciansMate (68-69), "I spoke with you at the reunion in Green Bay asking that you take me off of the "hard copy" mailing list for the newsletter in order to save the expense of postage and printing. An email of the same would be fine. The reunion was much better than the one in 2000 and **John Kraft** deserves a well done on his success in coordinating the activities, etc. Hope to see the crew in Virginia Beach next year."....*Dick, you should be reading this from the Newsletter I e-mailed to you. Thanks for participating in our Internet version. Also, glad to read that you are planning to be in Virginia Beach. Maybe we can encourage Cromie to show up too.*

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**Matt Schmitz**, a SeamaN (57), "Please put this in the Slush Fund and start sending the Newsletter by e-mail. Keep up the good work."....*Thanks Matt for your donation and for helping us save more by signing up for Internet mailing.*

**John Regish**, YoemaN (56-58), "Sorry we missed the last re-union. I've been meaning to email you earlier, but before I knew it the re-union had come and gone.

The big reason why we could not make it is that we are having a problem getting a settlement from the fire last year which destroyed our large barn. The insurance company still has not settled with our adjuster and the adjuster has indicated that we must remain here in the event of legal action.

In addition, Terri has had some serious medical problems, and is still under the doctor's care.

We hope to attend the next re-union, God willing." ...

*We understand, John. Taking care of Terri and business comes before Reunions. Tell Terri that we pray for her health to return so that she can once again be out and about boosting the economy of this country with her shopping trips.*



**Gerry Skahan**, widow of **Paul Skahan**, Chief RadioMan (58-60), "Thank you for the nice photo & obituary on Paul that you have in the latest Bang Gang newsletter. Quite a surprise to open it & see such a familiar grin on the first page. Life is going to be very different without him, we will all miss him.

He enjoyed the reunion last year in Branson, & yes, he got to see his daughter sitting on the bench in Memphis. He had a lovely funeral Mass & a very nice military tribute at the cemetery. I have included some photos from the

salute." ...*Thank you Gerry for sending the photos of Paul's burial. Life indeed will be different for you without him.*



**Mary Trujillo**, widow of **Avelino Trujillo**, RadioMan (43-46, WP1,2,3,4,5,6), "Please change my address. I enjoy reading the Bang Gang Newsletter very much. **Avelino Trujillo**, my deceased husband, served on Bang from 1943 to 1946. Some of his shipmates, **Rosie Rosenfeld**, **Bob Gunny**, **Pete Bates**, were mentioned in the last issue. It brought back good memories of past conventions." ...*Thank you Mary for sending your change of address. I am happy to hear that the Newsletter is helping to keep those good memories alive.*

**Gene Gauthier**, XO (58-60), "Would you please send me a 60's jacket patch. I was there when it was being designed. Please put whatever is left into the Slush Fund. Thanks for all your hard work.".... *Gene, thanks for your donation. Enjoy the patch and display it proudly.*

**Dominick Volonino**, a Sonarman (52-53) ComCrew3, Thank you for sending me the Bang Gang Newsletter. I have received three copies so far and would like to start receiving it by e-mail. I met you at the WWII Submarine Memorial reception in Kings Bay, GA. My son, Capt. David Volonino was the guest speaker.

The enclosed check is for the Slush Fund.".... *Thank you Dominick for your Slush Fund donation. Hopefully we will meet again at another Kings Bay function or maybe at a Reunion?*

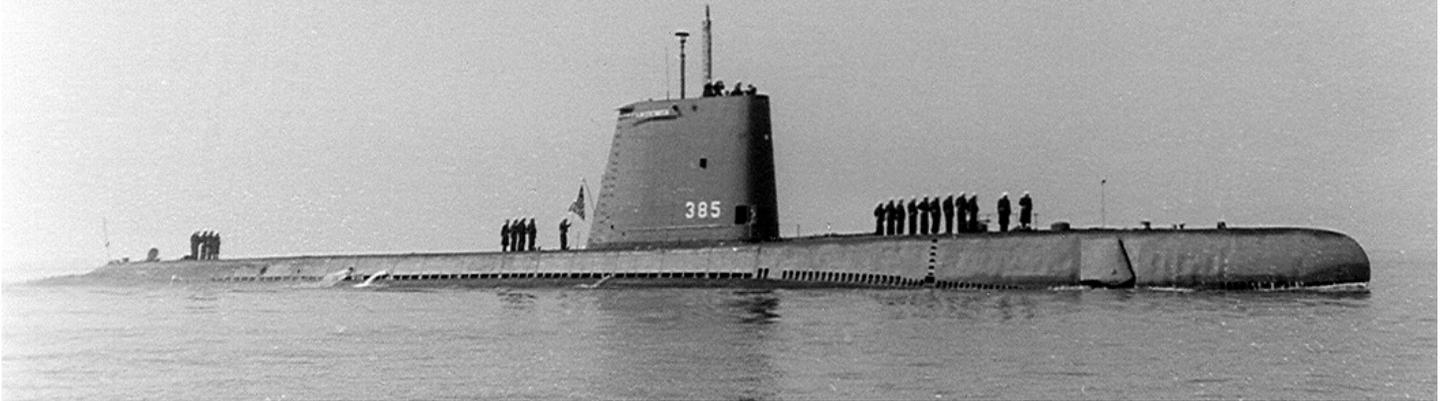


## Social Security for Vets

Please share this with anyone who's had active duty service prior to January 2002 and is planning for retirement. In a nutshell it boils down to this: You qualify for a higher social security payment because of your military service, for active duty any time from 1940 through 2001 (the program was done away with in January 2002). Up to \$1200 per year of earnings credit credited at time of application - which can make a substantial difference in social security monthly payments upon your retirement.

You must bring your DD-214 to the Social Security Office - and you must ask for this benefit to receive it! Soc Sec website: <http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>

This is something to put in your files for when you apply for Social Security down the road. It is NOT just for retirees, BUT anyone who has served on active duty prior to January 2002. FYI - this benefit is not automatic, you must ask for it!



I found this photo of BANG being offered for sale on the Internet by someone from the “Mother-land”. Seeing that the maneuvering watch is set and the foggy background, I would guess that they were pulling into Scotland. Can any of you 60’s shipmates date and place this for me?

**Bruce Pierson**, an Officer (61-63), You asked about the picture of BANG in issue 48. I don’t remember the picture being taken, but I was aboard when we were in Scotland in 1962.

I had reported aboard from SUBRON 14 Staff in Scotland, and was still qualifying as an Officer when we went to tie up alongside the Proteus AS19. I had been assigned the forward capstain as my maneuvering watch. Being a personal friend of the Proteus first LT, He was yelling instructions on tying up to me instead of giving them to our bridge. I was then relaying them to the bridge. After about the third time, the CO (LCDR Dick Johnston) told me to tell them he was the CO and was on the bridge.

That was a recruiting cruise if there ever was one. We started out on a Med cruise and wiped out two of three main engine blowers and had to go into Toulon France for three weeks to make repairs.

At that time the Berlin situation came up and the Navy wanted a show of force on the west coast of Europe so we went to Lisbon Portugal, then to Holy Lock, Scotland, then to visit the British Sub Tender, Adamant, in Gar Lock, Scotland, then to Antwerp, Belgium, (The first American sub to ever visit there), then to Amsterdam, Holland, and then to Portsmouth, England before finally home to Groton.

Being the Supply Officer at the time, I was very busy trying to get the Crew paid every couple of weeks and procuring supplies from civilians all over the world and qualifying in my spare time..... Bruce,

*thanks for attempting to ‘place’ the BANG photo. Since the seller was located in the British Isles, Scotland would be the obvious choice of location but you did mention visiting Portsmouth, England. Could it have been there? In trying to date it, I did notice that the hull numbers on the sail were not blacked out.*



KRACKER

BEALS



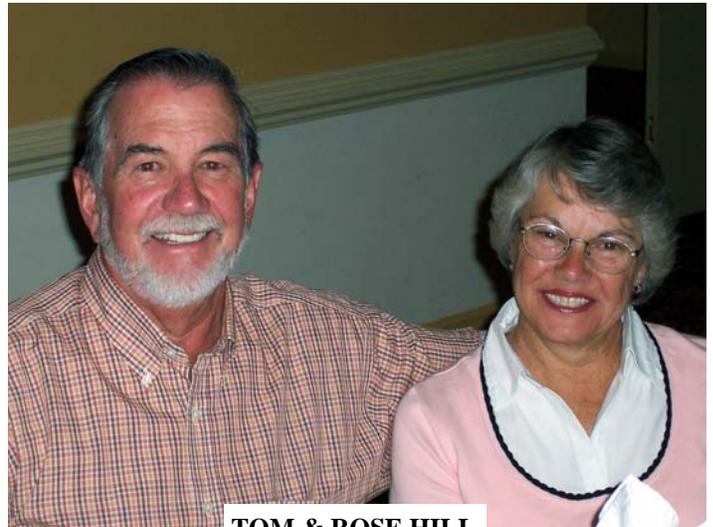
**DORIS & CAL COOTER - JOHN BUSCH**



**ED ELLIOTT - ERNIE HALLMAN - JOHN MONROE**



**DICK & PAULA EVINS**



**TOM & ROSE HILL**



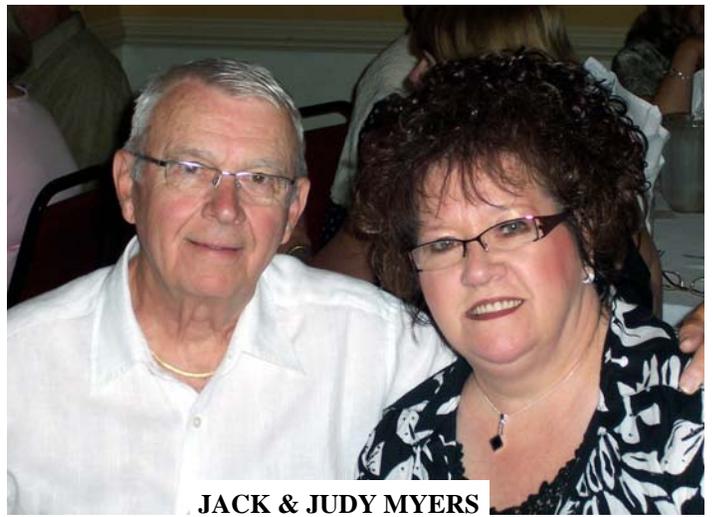
**MERLE & MARILYN MEYER**



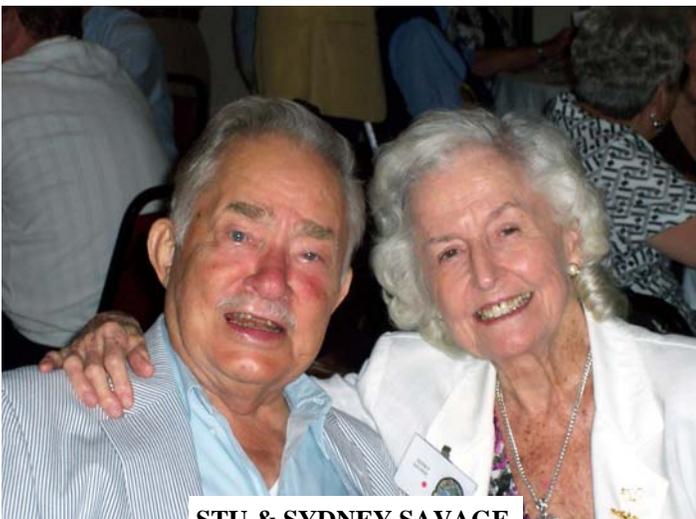
**BILL VONDERLIETH - CHARLIE KIMBALL**



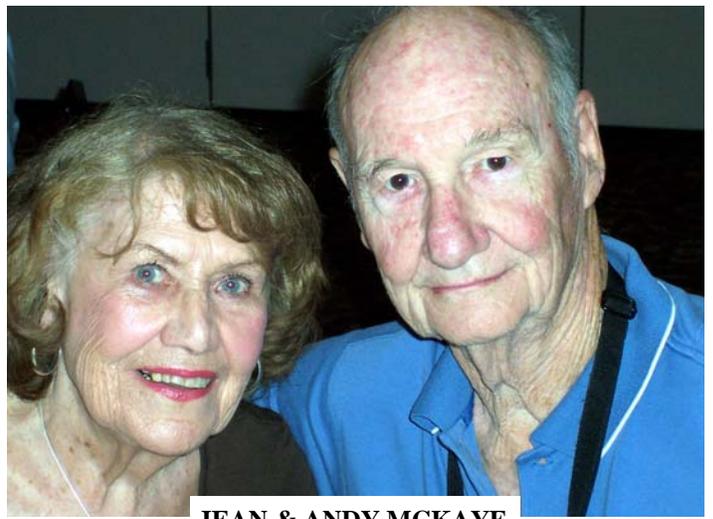
**PAUL SCHRAMM - JOANN & MARV CHRISTENSON**



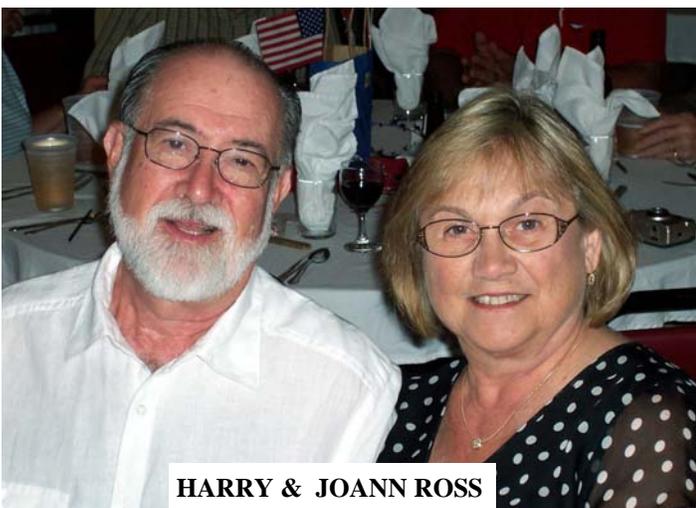
**JACK & JUDY MYERS**



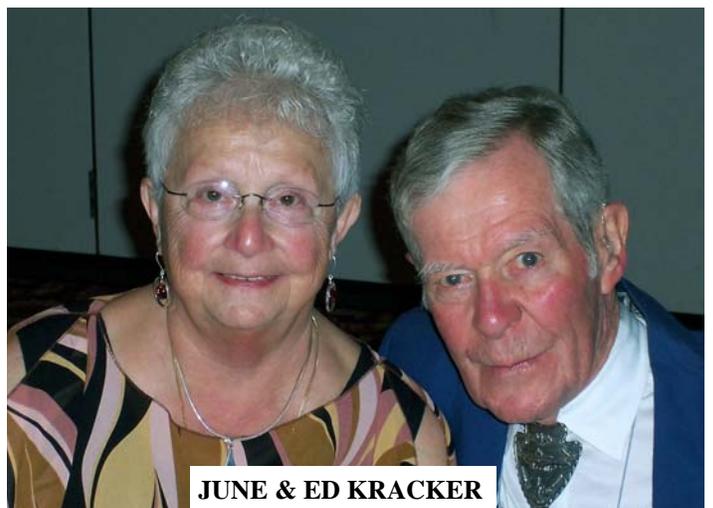
**STU & SYDNEY SAVAGE**



**JEAN & ANDY MCKAYE**



**HARRY & JOANN ROSS**



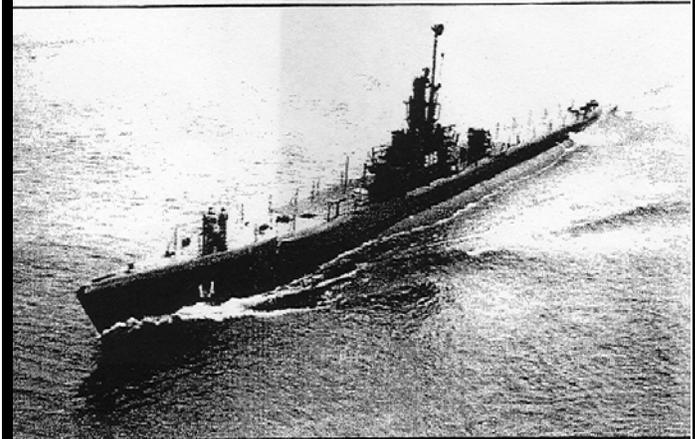
**JUNE & ED KRACKER**



**BANG shipmate is Sailor Of The Year!**  
 First time anyone has exceeded 4.0 classification.

**NEW MEMORIAL SITE ADDED**

**Dedicated to All Who Served on  
 U.S.S. BANG (SS-385)**  
 Balao Class Submarine  
 Launched 30 August 1943  
 Decommissioned and transferred to Spain  
 as "Cosme Garcia S34" on 28 September 1972



**Awarded Six Battle Stars  
 For Six War Patrols in WWII  
 94,000 Tons Shipping Reported Sunk  
 One Aviator Rescued**

**Antone R. Gallaher  
 War Patrol 1 through 5 Skipper  
 Was Awarded Four Navy Crosses**

**Funny story on how naive and dumb I was.**  
 The Chief instructor at radio school was sub guy. So, I got the bug and bribed a corpsman to phony up my eyesight to 20/30 or something such as I was very nearsighted. When I got to sub school, I got by that physical by changing my eyesight (it was in pencil) as we were hurrying up and waiting in some line with our medical cards—You guys have no idea how cool the tank tower water looks when it's all blurry. Anyway, after I get assigned to BANG, naive me sits in front of **XO Sherman Alexander** and confesses my sins. He looks at me like I'm crazy for telling him but he let it go, and I got to stay.

Our eleventh Memorial Site commemorating BANG shipmates was recently established. It is a 5" X 7" brass plaque (see depiction above) that is hanging on a wall in the Memorial Courtyard of the National Museum of the Pacific War. This museum, also referred to as the Admiral Nimitz Museum, is located in Fredericksburg, TX which is about 75 miles due west of Austin. If you are ever in that area, stop in and see the recognition you so well deserve. Be sure to wear your BANG cap.



## BANG VIDEOS NOW ON SALE!



Bang shipmate, **John Monroe**, a Culinary Specialist (69-72) announced at our Reunion in Green Bay that he still had the master copies of video he took at our 1993 Reunion in Portsmouth, NH and 1994 Reunion in Portsmouth, VA. Both of these videos contain highlights of those Reunions including footage of the banquet.

He also has a video that he produced from photos and 8mm film which records BANG history throughout her Commissioned years from 1943 to 1972 and also featured highlights of a 1970-1971 Med Cruise.

John has offered to make copies of these videos and sell them for \$20.00 each with a portion of the proceeds going to our Slush Fund. He also plans to digitalize them so they will be available in either the VHS tape format or the CD/DVD format.

Anyone interested in purchasing any or all of these videos may do so by contacting John by mail at the following address:

**1029 Bush St. Apt. B  
Red Wing, MN 55066-3470**

### THE INTERNET CONNECTION CHANGES SINCE LAST PUBLICATION

**Dick Barbieri** ..... rbarbieri7@gmail.com  
**Michael Chiarito**..... 1984terp@comcast.net  
**George Fedyna**..... gfedyna@starckrealtors.com  
**Bill Paul**..... Bill@wlpaul.com  
**Paul Schramm** ..... inkazoo@hotmail.com  
**Don Vincent** ..... vincess341@bellsouth.net



## USS BANG (SS385) MEMORIAL SITES

"Keeping The Memory Alive"

- Albacore Park - Portsmouth, NH**  
Tree and Engraved Ground Marker
- Battleship Park - Mobile, AL**  
Engraved Walkway Brick
- Mathis Plaza Waterfront Park - S. Toms River, NJ**  
Engraved Walkway Brick
- Deterrent Park - Silverdale, WA**  
Engraved Walkway Brick
- Veterans Memorial Park - Pensacola, FL**  
Submarine Lifeguard League Memorial Stone
- Idaho Science Center - Arco, ID**  
Engraved Bronze Plaque @ Hawkbill Memorial
- Veterans Freedom Memorial - Tampa, FL**  
Engraved Walkway Brick
- USS Lapon Memorial Sail - Springfield, MO**  
Engraved Walkway Brick
- Clarion Hotel - Charleston, SC**  
Framed Trilogy Drawing on Lobby Wall
- New Mexico Vets Memorial - Albuquerque, NM**  
Engraved Walkway Brick
- Nimitz WWII Museum-Fredericksburg, TX**  
Brass Plaque on Memorial Courtyard Wall

## END OF SUMMER SALE NOW ON!!!

**TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE GREAT PRICES. THEY'RE FALLIN LIKE THE LEAVES.** You may purchase these items by mail or at our Reunions. Send mail orders to **Phil Beals**.

Make your check payable to **USS BANG** and be sure to add a few bucks extra to cover the postage. All proceeds from these sales are deposited directly into our Slush Fund.

Navy Blue Ballcap - USS BANG SS385 embroidered in gold with silver dolphins and solid or mesh top.  
**Please state your choice**.....\$8.00

BANG Photos - 40's, 50's, 60's 8x10 black & white as shown on back page.  
**Please state your choice**.....\$3.00

Jacket Patches - 40's, 50's, 60's 5 inch in full color as shown on back page.  
**Please state your choice**.....\$5.00

WWII Battle Flag Patch - 3x5 inch full color.....\$5.00

1" Lapel/Hat pins - depicting above jacket patches & battle flag. **Please state your choice**.....\$4.00



# REUNION UPDATE



## Green Bay 2008 - Virginia Beach 2009

The 2008 Green Bay Reunion may not have broken any attendance records but, the five day fun filled event sure made an impression on those that attended. Especially the new comers like Cal and Doris Cooter, Tom and Rose Hill, Merle and Marilyn Meyer, and Paul Schramm. It was also nice to see John Monroe and Dick Evins back again after being absent for many years.



Our hosts, John and Darlene Kraft did a great job stocking the Hospitality Room and choosing the tours to keep us entertained for five days.



The Airshow was a sight to behold with literally thousands of air craft parked wing tip to wing tip on this airfield.

Military planes, Commercial planes, and private

planes of all vintages, sizes, and shapes as far as the eye could see. And when they flew overhead in formation it almost made you want to join the Air Force. Please note, I said ALMOST! The show included some stunt flying by modified/homemade types and a helicopter that did things that helicopters can't do - or at least not supposed to do. They also had a private jet plane that they called the Rocket. It went by so fast I was unable to get a picture of it.



The tour of the 1800's lighthouse on Lake Michigan was very educational. Learning how a lighthouse keeper and his family coped with things before their was electricity. This was followed by the famous Wisconsin fish boil that was prepared before our eyes outdoors in a kettle. The fish were caught in Lake Michigan that morning and it tasted so.



Our tour of the Maritime Museum and Cobia was extra special because we were allotted time to hold our annual Memorial Service on the deck of Cobia and use the ship bell for tolling. After the service they started engines 3 & 4 to help send our departed shipmates on their final patrol.



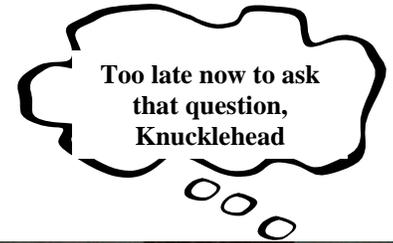
This is the final sailing list of attendees to our Reunion in Green Bay:

**Phil and Dot Beals (56-59)**  
**Marvin and JoAnn Christenson (56-58)**  
**Ike and Michelle Cohen (70)**  
**Cal and Doris Cooter (66-68)**  
with John Busch (guest)  
**Ed and Jane DeLong (63-66)**  
**Ed Elliott (55-58)**  
**Dick and Paula Evins (68-69)**  
**Len Fagotti and Marilyn Barratt (63-66)**  
**Bill and Joan Fenton (68-71)**  
**Dick Gahan (58-62)**  
**Ralph and Claire Gates (65-67)**  
**Deane and Connie Hadfield (57-60)**  
**Tom and Rose Hill (68-69)**  
**Charles Kimball (53-55)**  
**James and Yolanda Klein (64-66)**  
with Ernie Hallman (guest)  
**Ed and June Kracker (43-45)**  
**John and Darlene Kraft (68-70)**  
**Ben LaPorte (57-60)**  
**Dale and Rosie Larson (55-57)**  
**Joe and Marion Leonardi (57-59)**  
**Gene and Ronnie Lockwood (65-71)**  
**Andy and Jean McKaye (54-57)**  
**Merle and Marilyn Meyer (64-67)**  
**John Monroe (69-72)**  
**Ed and Sandy Moran (60-62)**  
**Jack and Judy Myers (55-56)**  
**Harry and JoAnn Ross (64-66)**  
**Stu and Sydney Savage (56-59)**  
**Paul Schramm (70-71)**  
**Lamarr and Kathy Seader (62-65)**  
**Lee and Alida Sivil (55-58)**  
**Bill VonDerLieth (52-57)**

We wish to thank all of you who were able to come to Green Bay and help make it another successful Reunion. We hope you enjoyed being there as much as we enjoyed your friendship and camaraderie and are already considering attending another Reunion soon.



Next year we will be returning to Virginia Beach for our 66th Reunion. The Lockwoods, Gene and Ronnie, once again have stepped forward to welcome us to their neighborhood by volunteering to host our 2009 Reunion.



Gene has already secured the same hotel as we had in 2002 with all rooms having an ocean view. The room rates are almost the same also with a quoted price of \$56.00 per night tax included. The dates are also set - beginning Monday, October 19th through Thursday, October 22nd.

As one of the feature events, Gene is planning a three hour moonlight dinner show cruise aboard the magnificent Spirit of Norfolk.

Complete details of our 2009 Reunion including all events and pricing will be published in the next issue of this Newsletter. It's never too early to start making your plans for a Lockwood hosted Reunion. We out grew the capacity of our Hospitality Room **twice** at the last one.



PHIL BEALS, EDITOR  
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NIVERVILLE, NY 12130-0385



**GOD Bless America!  
For In GOD We Trust.**

**FIRST – CLASS MAIL  
FORWARDING SERVICE  
REQUESTED**



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

