



1943



1972



# THE BANG GANG NEWSLETTER

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

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WWW.USSBANG.COM

ISSUE-64

## RETURN TO DIEGO





# 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 J. McGettigan, EM (46)**

**Richard L. Major, IC (61-65)**

**Isaac Yohai, TM (53-54)**

**Edward J. Gandy, TM (55-58)**

**Ronald R. Garski, IC (53-55)**

**Karl L. Evans, EMC (63)**



**SHIPMATES, REST YOUR OARS!**

The following shipmates are new (found) additions to our roster. Your committee is thankful for all who helped 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

**NONE TO REPORT!**

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.

<u>LASTNAME</u>	<u>FIRSTNAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>ZIPCODE</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>Y-O-B</u>
Anderson	Warner E	PO Box 873	Seabeck	WA	89380-0873	(360) 830-4619	65-69
Gritzke	Arnold R	3211 Quantum Place	Mims	FL	32754-3011		63-64



## THANK YOU!

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



Isaac Cohen  
Bill Cromie  
Ann Dockery (Bill)

James Garski (Ron)  
Carl Hagenkotter

John Howard  
Jack Manning

Ed Schovajsa  
Ralph Sheffel  
Carl Weber



THE INTERNET CONNECTION  
CHANGES SINCE LAST PUBLICATION



**NONE TO REPORT!**



# 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.

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

This year's Reunion host, **Harry Ross** et al, has finalized its agenda and it is posted elsewhere in this issue. If you plan on attending please help Harry out by mailing him your Registration Form and making your room reservations as soon as possible. If needed, you can always cancel at a later date without any cost to you.

For those of you with Internet connection, **Bill Fenton** has more information about the Reunion posted on our web site at [www.ussbang.com](http://www.ussbang.com).

You will notice that San Diego is very Family oriented so don't forget the younger ones as we encourage family participation as well at all of our Reunions.

If you are still thinking you might not have a good time, all I can say is—if you enjoyed your time aboard BANG then I guarantee you'll enjoy our Reunion and, if you can't remember that far back, come anyway and your shipmates will help you to remember.

.....  
Traveling up and down the East coast on I95 twice a year while migrating between FL and NY I found that NC was a good place to stop. One



reason for stopping was because **Karl Evans** lived in Apex. We would always have a meal together, tell a few sea stories, and try to solve the world's problems before I would continue on my way. A few years back Karl moved to TN and though Dot and I still stop in NC, it is not as much fun anymore.

Karl was only aboard BANG for a short period in 1963 near the end of his career. Most of that time was spent on a Northern Cruise with Captain Sinclair. He stated that the most memorable thing of that trip for him was getting the word about Thresher on the way back to New London.

I thank **Ron Athey** for sending notification of his death.

**KARL L. EVANS**, aka "Subs Evans", died peacefully Wednesday, March 7, 2012, in Nashville, after a short illness. Born April 8, 1926, in Poyen, Ark., the oldest of 11 children born to Karl M. and Ollie Evans. He graduated high school in Vivian, LA. He served 20 years in the Navy on many submarines. Karl received his Dolphins on the USS Porpoise SS 172 in 1945. In addition to Porpoise he served on Nautilus SS 168, Bowfin SS 287, Sablefish SS 303, Tang SS 563, Bang SS 385, Runner SS 476, Nautilus SSN 571, Skipjack SSN 585, and finished on the USS Ethan Allen SSBN 608 as chief petty officer in 1963. His next endeavor was a supervisor's job at Electric Boat. Karl was an avid gardener and active in the Sub Vet's organizations.

He is survived by his wife, Helen (Nieto); three daughters and their families, Karlee and Mark Slaper with daughters, Jessica and Lauren, Charlene Christian and daughters, Michelle and Stacey, Sherryl Smith and her children, Amanda and Chad; and two great-grandchildren, Kali and Myles.

Karl was cremated in Tennessee. His ashes will be buried at sea with full military honors. A memorial will be held at a later time by the family.

.....  
**Ed Gandy** was one of my mentors aboard BANG. One of so many WWII submariners who wound up in the latter years of their careers delegated to teaching a newer generation how to operate the weaponry they had so masterfully handled during the war. Ed was a good teacher and a good shipmate. He always took joy in relating his WWII experience aboard Finback when they rescued a downed pilot who later became our 41st President and then later on in life becoming the President's neighbor in Maine and never missing the chance to remind him who saved his butt.

I am grateful to our Reunions for reuniting Ed and I and extending the friendship we had aboard BANG to the present.



**EDWARD J. GANDY**, 86, formerly of 101 Ipswich Drive, died peacefully Sunday evening, March 11th, in Hospice House of Vero Beach, FL, with his daughter at his side.

He was born in Winchendon, MA on December 10, 1925, the son of the late Matthew and Mary Frances (O'Hara) Gandy and lived in

Winchendon until moving to Vero Beach this past fall.

Ed worked as a design engineer for Honeywell from 1972 to 1984. He then worked for Madison Wire and Cable in Worcester for twelve years until his retirement in 1996. He enjoyed deep sea fishing and was an avid collector of coins.

A career Navy man, Ed spent most of his time serving on submarines covering three war era's, WWII, Korea and Vietnam, and was a qualified deep sea diver. He served as a torpedoman on USS Bang and USS Finback. While on the Finback patrolling off the Japanese Island of Chichi-Jima, his sub rescued downed pilot Lt. George Herbert Walker Bush, later becoming our 41st President, just four hours before Japanese fish boats could reach him. While serving, his submarines sank a total of 18 enemy ships.

Locally, Ed was loved and respected by all, who knew him. Ed was a 50 year member of Eugene M. Connor Post 193 and was very instrumental in the formation of the Sons Squadron at the Legion. He would often serve as chaplain, visiting sick members and participating in military ceremonies. Proud of his service, he spoke each year to 7th and 8th grade students about his times on the submarine. At the Legion facility, there is a corner, known as "Ed Gandy Corner", where there are several pictures and commendations from President Bush and others, of Ed. In his later years, when he needed his walker to navigate, he was fondly nicknamed "Fast Eddie."

Ed was a member of The Winchendon Lions Club, Artisan Lodge of Masons, The Forty & Eight Organization of the American Legion,

Winchendon Rod and Gun Club (where he always donated each year to its Annual Children's Fishing Derby), VFW Post 6997 in York, Maine and St. Paul's Episcopal Church. He was also a life member of Lt. Frederick Wilder White Post 2158 VFW and a member of the Elks in York, Maine. Ed was a former member the Winchendon Historical Society and the Bingo Committee at the Legion. Ed enjoyed dancing to the big band sound, such as jitter bugging, playing cribbage and hunting for deer in his younger days. Ed was a lifelong fan of the New York Yankees.

His wife of 52 years, Mary Ann (Lemire) Gandy, died in 2002. He leaves two children, Jane E. Draeger and her husband, Kenneth of Vero Beach, FL and David M. Gandy of Winchendon and a granddaughter, Gretchen J. Draeger; a cousin, Betty Ashmore of Winchendon, as well as nephews and nieces. He was predeceased by his brothers and sisters, Alice Conway, Edith Gandy, Margaret Columbus, Charles Gandy, and Matthew Gandy.

A full military service and burial was held in Riverside Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to Eugene M. Connor Post 193 American Legion, PO Box 116, Winchendon, MA 01475.



**Ike Cohen** sent us the following notification he received about James McGettigan's demise. James served aboard BANG for only a couple of months in 1946 before being discharged.

**JAMES J. MCGETTIGAN**, age 87, of Philadelphia, passed away gently from this earth on Monday, March 12th, 2012, at the Vitas Hospice Center in Orlando FL.

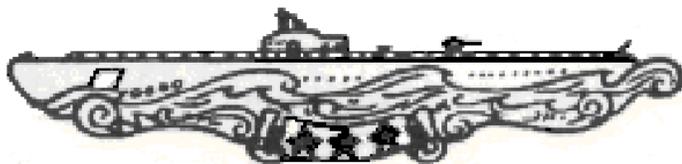


He was born on December 10th, 1924 in Philadelphia, the oldest son of the late Anna McLaughlin and James J. McGettigan. He attended

West Catholic High School and Drexel University (BSEE) on the G.I. Bill. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Dorothy C. Logan. Also remembered are his sisters and brothers who preceded him in death, Anna "Babe," Daniel (Leona), Thomas, Helen

(Charles), Edith (Jim), Patricia, and Mary. Surviving are his daughter, Rosemary M. Maladecki and husband, Richard of Orlando FL; stepdaughter, Dorothea L. Newnam of Glen Arm MD; stepson, Richard E. Newnam and wife, Joanne of Washington Crossing PA and grandchildren, Michael J. (Aryn) and David J. Newnam, and Logan R., Courtney E., and Megan R. Maladecki. Also surviving are sister, Winifred (Charles) McFadden and brother, Francis "Fritz" (Dorothy) McGettigan; brothers-in-law, Francis (Obie) O'Brien, Joseph Selfridge, John Clay; sisters-in-law, Florence Twiford (Richard) Logan and Charlotte (Joseph) Logan and numerous nieces and nephews. Mr. McGettigan was a U.S. Navy World War II and Korean War veteran and a member of the Submarine Service in which he proudly served as Electrician Mate and Electrician Foreman in the South Pacific on the USS Seahorse, USS Diablo, USS Bang and USS Thresher, among others. He later was employed as an installer for Western Electric, rising to management in the Baltimore, New York, Chicago, and Detroit areas. He retired as Midwest Regional Manager in 1984 to North Wildwood, finally moving to Orlando to be closer to his daughter and beloved grand-children, where he could attend their various events. He continued to be a valuable member of the Submariners, and the Tip and Ringers.

A Service for Internment was held in Arlington National Cemetery at 3 P.M., on Wednesday, June 20th. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Alzheimer's Association ([www.alz.org/index.asp](http://www.alz.org/index.asp)).



James Garski, son of **Ronald Garski**, writes the following: "I wish to inform you that Ronald Garski has passed away at the age of 77 on 4/3/2012 in Racine, WI. My dad was a proud member of the USS Bang and proudly served his country. The good Lord now has called him from earth and resting in peace in heaven. My family and friends will miss him dearly, he truly lived life to the fullest. He was looking forward

to reunite with former shipmates in the coming years and he always loved being a true navy serviceman. He read the previous newsletters you sent back in november bringing a smile on his face whenever he saw some familiar faces. I thank you for giving my dad some joy this past year.

**RONALD RUSSELL GARSKI**, age 77, passed



away Tuesday, April 3, 2012, at Wheaton Franciscan All Saints Medical Center. He was born in Racine, December 29, 1934, son of the late Cyril and Rose (Nee: Friedel) Garski. Ron graduated from St. Catherine's High School, "Class of 1952". He

proudly served in the US Navy aboard USS Bang.

On September 13, 1958 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Burlington he was united in marriage to Carol A. Boschert who preceded him in death November 8, 1979.

Ron was employed by In-Sink-Erator for many years and retired from Getty's Mfg in 1982.

In his retirement he moved to Woodruff, WI where he owned and operated the "Little Muskie Bar" and also worked at Lakeland Rental. Ron loved sports and was a Chicago Bears Fan. He also loved the outdoors and was an avid fisherman. He will be dearly missed.

Surviving are his children, James Garski and fiancée Yozette Muller of Oak Creek, WI, Jerry (Lynn) Garski of Macedon, NY, Mary Jo (Vince) Caracciolo of Palm Beach Gardens, FL; 2 granddaughters, Stephanie and Carolyn; brothers and sister, Larry (Dottie) Garski of Racine, Dick (Marietta) Garski of Racine, Al Garski of Rome, WI, and Kathy Garski of Racine; nieces, nephews, other relatives and dear friends. Ron was also preceded in death by his second wife, Barbara Romano.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Monday, April 9, 2012, followed by Interment with full military honors at Holy Cross Cemetery

**Note:** We had just recently located Ron as reported in the last Newsletter. Reading this, **Ed (Tex) Schovajsa**, a shipmate of Ron's, sent us a letter stating 'Ron was a great joy aboard

BANG' and expressed his delight of maybe getting to see him at a future Reunion. Sorry to be the bearer of such sad news Tex. I, too, was looking forward to meeting him.

Laurel Major, Dick's widow, mailed us the following: "As most of you know, Dick, had been quite ill with brain cancer. It is with a heavy heart to tell you Dick has now passed away (May 10).

Thanks to all of you who sent cards, kept in contact by phone, email and in your prayers. Danny and I will miss him, especially his dry sense of humor and his gentleness as a Dad and husband.

The arrangements have been made to bring Dick back to DE and he is to be buried at DEL VETS Cemetery. Dates have yet TBD. I will add this to the News Journal as firm information becomes available.



**RICHARD MAJOR JR.,** 68, of Fort Myers, FL, formerly of Frankford, DE died on May 10, 2012 at Joanne's House of Hope Hospice in Bonita Springs, FL. He was born on December 12, 1943 in Wilmington, DE, a child of Richard L. and Elizabeth M. (McCourt) Major Sr. A resident of Fort Myers for

the past 10 years; he previously lived in Frankford and Ocean View, DE.

He served in the US Navy from 1961 to 1965 abroad the submarine USS Bang. He was an employee of the Diamond State Phone Company from 1965 to 1969, a Delaware State Trooper from 1969 to 1983 and an employee of DELDOT for 10 years. He was a 37 year member of the Unity Lodge 32 AF&AM in Newport, DE, a member of the Scottish Rite Cathedral and Delaware Shrine at Nur Temple, past president of the Shield and Square Club (Masonic Police and Fireman) and a charter member of the Submarine Veterans Group of Delaware.

He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Laurel F. (Erdman) Major, son, Daniel Edward Major of Winterthur, DE, brother, Steven D. (Ann) Major of Oskaloosa, KS and sister, Eileen M. Major of Wilmington, DE.

A Memorial Service was held on May 23, 2012 at the McCourt Family Home, (Fairfield), Newark, DE. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be sent to Hope Hospice, 9470 HealthPark Circle, Fort Myers, FL 33908 or to Highfield Masonic Home, 4800 Lancaster Pike, Wilmington, DE 19807.

We recently received word that shipmate **Isaac Yohai** (TM 53 - 54) passed away on Sept 28, 2007 and was confirmed through Internet search. No prior notification was received and none of his mailed Newsletters were returned by the post office.

*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.*



The following shipmates and wives are currently in need of our well wishes and prayers.

**Marge Heater** and **Betty Gunny** - dementia, - nothing new to report.

**John Monroe (69-72)** - The wait is over... John received a liver transplant about a week and a half ago. He is still in the hospital and is rather incoherent but the prognosis is good. **Lenny Scuito** followed up with a call to Marie Monroe and got some great news. He is doing very well and getting better and better every day. He is still on medications, antibiotics and pain killers. He is coherent almost all of the time now. She mentioned that he might be back

home in 6 to 8 weeks depending on his progress. Lets all hope so.

**Larry Harjehausen (57-60)** - knee and lower back pain, - Nothing new to report.

**John Kraft (68-70)** - Heart problems, - Nothing new to report.

**“JT” Murray (56-59)** - Mesothelioma, - nothing new to report.

**Dick Flanagan (56-58)** - Giillian-Barre syndrome, - nothing new to report.

**Bill Cromie (64-71)** - Kidney infection, - Still improving. **Ed DeLong** reports in late April “I can't get over how good he looks compaired to how he looked the last time I saw him.”

**NOTE:** I have recently received an Email from **Chuck Archer's (62-65) wife, Pat** stating that **Robert Robertson (63-67)** has been very sick for a long while. COPD, and several other problems that she did not know how to spell and that he's been in and out of the Hospital many times this past year. She also says that husband, Chuck had his problems also (heart and leg surgeries) over the past few years but is doing well now. Lets also include Chuck and Rob in our prayers.

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*



**Jack Manning**, an ElectriciansMate (58-59), “You probably don't remember me but I remember the great meals you cooked during my stay aboard BANG. I also appreciate everything that you have done to perpetuate the memory of “good ole BANG” Enclosed is a check to cover my Small Stores order and also a little extra for the Slush Fund. Thank you very much for your years of service.” ....*Yes, I do remember you Jack and the Northern Run in 1959. Thank you for your stores order and contribution to the fund.*

**Bob Gunny**, a TorpedoMan (44-45, WP2,3,4,5,6), “Another fine newsletter and in reading same had to sit back and reflect a little about my time onboard the Bang and my association with **Bob Herzog** and **Ray Bensen**. Bob and I were quite friendly with one another and when I think about him I recall how he took the rap for another who failed to immediately decode an urgent message after diving one morning which, as you can only imagine, incurred the displeasure of the Captain. I have always admired him for this fine display of character and often wondered how many of our shipmates were aware of this incident.

Ray without doubt had the complete respect of all due to his often demonstrated proficiency in dealing with our sometimes erratic radar systems as well as his pleasant demeanor. I remember well his having radar parts scattered all over the conning tower deck on one occasion and me muttering to myself ‘I hope he gets all this stuff together before we surface tonight.’ Anyway, it is sad to read about former shipmates passing away and the taking of many untold stories with them.”... *Bob, your reflections carried forth to my era also. BANG shipmates never pointed fingers—unless they were up. I also agree that we are losing many great sea stories with the passing of our shipmates. That is why I sure hope that you and Betty can make it to San Diego this year so that we can get some of your stories on tape before they too are lost.*

**Carl Hagenkotter**, a YoemaN (52-54) ComCrew3, “My old BANG hat has about had it. I need a new one with a solid top and a 50's patch. I have added a little extra for the Slush Fund.” ....*Carl, it is my pleasure to send you another BANG cap. I don't want you looking shabby while traveling the Gulf Coast. Thanks for the Slush Fund donation also.*

**Ralph Sheffel** an ENgineman (58-61), “I hope this note finds you happy and well. I'm doing OK for an old guy!  
I received the Bang Newsletter and thought I should send a donation for the Slush Fund. I'm sure you can use it. Thanks for doing such a great job.”...*Thank you for your donation Ralph. I hope you are not too old to travel to San Diego this fall. It really would be great to see you once again after over 50 years.*

**Paull Anderson**, a Firecontrol Tech (62-63), The latest issue of the good old Newsletter arrived today and, as usual, was great to read - and which I routinely repeat frequently as time passes. You continue to do a super job on this very important part of all of us in The Gang that is so meaningful to all of the brethren. Bravo Zulu !!

The commentary by **Del Robinson** prompted me to write to clarify for him when it was that we made the Northern Run he mentioned. It was in early 1963 and I recall standing sonar watches with him at times. I believe that **Carl Weber** was our COB at the time. We operated off the Kola Peninsula, near Mermansk, on that Run and ended up getting some good intelligence data to take back to Sublant. We had several "spooks" aboard for the trip who operated in the radio shack. Fortunately, our great skipper, **Alec Sinclair**, outfoxed the ruskies trying to nail us after forcing Sea Lion to surface.

Another part of that trip he seems fuzzy on his recall was how we went from the US to Faslane, at the base on Gare Loch, to provision-up prior to setting sail for the Run. There we did some liberty time and I recall visiting a few of my old haunts in Glasgow and Edinburg that I had previously enjoyed while stationed on the George Washington, SSBN 598, when we operated out of Holy loch and used the Proteus tender. Anyway, you might want to pass this info on to him with hopes it proves useful to fill in some details.

Another matter that has been on my mind for some time is whether there is some established entity, like a museum or depository, which will keep and maintain our legacy and artifacts when we all are long gone - for the sake of future generations of Americans. I thought you might have info on such. I have several artifacts I would not want to be lost for such use and I am thinking about establishing an endowment of a few million for that purpose. I will appreciate any relevant info you can share.

Meanwhile, stay well, cheerful in all weather, and keep up your great work for The Gang. God bless and protect you and all the brethren." ... *Thanks Paull for your compliments and for clarifying the Northern Run for Del Robinson. I have noticed that some of our shipmates that have spent time aboard other Boats beside BANG sometimes get their Ops mixed up. As for the*

*BANG memorabilia we have, I believe we voted at the last New London Reunion to transfer its ownership to the Nautilus Museum in Groton upon our disbandment. This would have to be verified by the meeting minutes.*

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**Anne Dockery**, widow of **Bill Dockery**, an Electronics Tech (52-54) ComCrew3, "Thank you so much for taking the time to re-send the Bang Newsletter to me at my new address.

I've actually been at the new address for over a year but, with the post office forwarding the newsletter from my old address, I just didn't realize that I had never sent you my change of address. Sorry about that. Actually it was a good thing because it woke me up to the fact that I never sent you a check for the Slush Fund which I had intended to do for a long time.

I love reading the newsletter because it reminds me how much my husband enjoyed it. Bill has been on Eternal Patrol for 13 years and it's hard to believe. When we joined the Gang for its Reunion in Portsmouth, NH in October 1993, Bill was walking fine and it was I who was using a cane to walk with as I awaited my first hip replacement that November. But, within the next 6 months, Bill was hit with Multiple System Atrophy (MSA) and within one year he was totally bedridden for 3 1/2 years not being able to move a muscle or talk.

It's pretty unexplainable what life has in store for us. Bill was the healthy one for 65 years—never sick. I, on the other side of the coin, have had many operations because of Arthritis. And yet, now with Osteoporosis, I'm still here and dancing Ballroom 2 or 3 times a month. So, we must enjoy every day GOD gives us.

Out of the 4 Boats that Bill was on in his 20 years of service, BANG is the only one that keeps in touch with its family. You do a fantastic job in keeping up the great connection of old shipmates and their families."... *Thanks Anne for your donation and detail about the cause of Bill's demise. Certainly a heart wrenching time for all involved. I attended the Portsmouth Reunion also and probably met you and Bill there but was too involved in trying to remember the shipmates I served aboard with. I was happy to read that you referred to us as "family" as I too feel that the Bang Gang are more than just shipmates and that our annual get togethers are not Boat reunions but Family reunions. As you said, our future will always*

remain a mystery so we continue on by remembering the past and enjoying the present the best we can and keep on dancing....

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**Lenny Scuito**, a QuarterMaster (69-71), "I am attaching a letter about our retired members health plans (if you use them) that directly impacts all of us. This letter is from the Tricare/US Family Health Plan in my geographical area. But it applies to all areas. If you have not gotten a letter like this, I strongly suggest you contact either your Tricare Group or your US Family Health Plan Group to determine and ensure your coverage. I was told, last year, that the government was pushing to eliminate both of these and force all of us retired military types to use Medicare as our primary with no secondary. If this had happened, any secondary benefits package chosen by the retiree, would have been paid for out of their own pocket. Needless to say, the thousands of letters sent to Congressionals and the five military services did make a difference."

Due to changes in the Department of Defense budget, after September 30, 2012, military retirees 65 or older will not be able to enroll in any TRICARE Prime option, including the US Family Health Plan. In addition, anyone joining the US Family Health Plan after September 30, 2012, will be disenrolled from the plan upon reaching age 65.

Let me reassure you that **you and/or your family will not be affected by the change.** Anyone who is enrolled in the US Family Health Plan on September 30, 2012, is "grandfathered." That means you may stay in the plan regardless of your age.

Thanks to the letters that thousands of our members sent to Washington last year, we were able to preserve your access to the US Family Health Plan. You may remain a US Family Health Plan member as long as you stay continuously enrolled.

**Even if this change does not affect you, I'd like to ask for your help. Please help us spread the word throughout the military community.**

Our best efforts are never as good as word of mouth. If you have family members, friends, neighbors, or coworkers who are eligible for TRICARE but are not members of the US

Family Health Plan, tell them about this time-limited opportunity to get a great health plan for life. They should be aware that the new law restricts their future TRICARE options. However, if they become members of the US Family Health by September 30, 2012, they'll have a high-quality health plan they can keep.

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Ed Note: While we are on the subject of benefit intrusion by the boys in Washington, here is a couple more areas under attack.

**Commissary & Exchange Elimination:** Those authorized to shop in these two venues saved nearly \$5 billion last year. It is one of the most utilized and beneficial benefits earned by those on active duty and retired. Not only do they save a substantial amount of money, they contribute to the improvement of the commissary system. That's because for almost 60 years, Congress has required commissaries to collect a surcharge on purchases to make them more self-sustaining. *"Every time our customers shop at the commissary, they are not only saving money because we sell at cost, but they are also taking care of their own,"* said Joseph H. Jeu, DeCA director and CEO. *"Their purchases help improve commissary facilities for their brothers and sisters in uniform."* The surcharge, which has been set at 5 percent for the past 28 years, is used to build replacement stores, renovate and repair existing stores, and purchase equipment such as freezers and cash registers. Even with the surcharge, customers still enjoy an average of 32 percent or more in savings. [Source: AFSA On Call Leg Up 29 Mar 2012 ++] You should know **the benefits of shopping in the Commissary and Exchanges is increasingly being attacked by those who think they know better and want to reduce funds for these activities.** The Armed Forces Marketing Council and the American Logistics Association have gotten together and have started a website where you can join the Coalition to help save these valuable benefits. Readers are encouraged to go to the Save our Benefits homepage [http://www.saveourbenefit.org/Home\\_Page.html](http://www.saveourbenefit.org/Home_Page.html) and join. Your help is needed to show those members of Congress that the Commissary and Exchange are very valuable benefits that need to be preserved.

In an unrelated intrusion into the military community's benefits the Directorate of Family and

Morale, Welfare and Recreation at Fort Myer, VA, recently announced an exception to policy that allows non-Department of Defense federal employees residing in proximity to Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall to use bowling center, club pools and tennis courts, as well as access to dining at the clubs or picnic areas, wedding packages and special event equipment rental, including grills and tents. Non-DoD federal employees still must provide proper identification and their official ID cards for entry. **This wrongheaded decision severely waters down the benefits earned for a career in the military.** It forces active duty troops, retirees and survivors to compete with many more civilians for spots in the gym, pool and other scarce MWR resources elsewhere on base. Bad judgment call and a dangerous precedent that other activities might try to emulate. [Source: NAUS Weekly Update 6 Apr 2012 ++]

How about the next time you try to book your favorite campsite and they tell you "Sorry, we are full" ????



INDIANAPOLIS 1992

Front:  
**Shirley Bates, Ara Taylor, Laurette Cellupica, Ellie Bruning**

Rear:  
**Goldie Rosenfeld, Pete Bates, Dan Rosenfeld, Bob Cellupica**



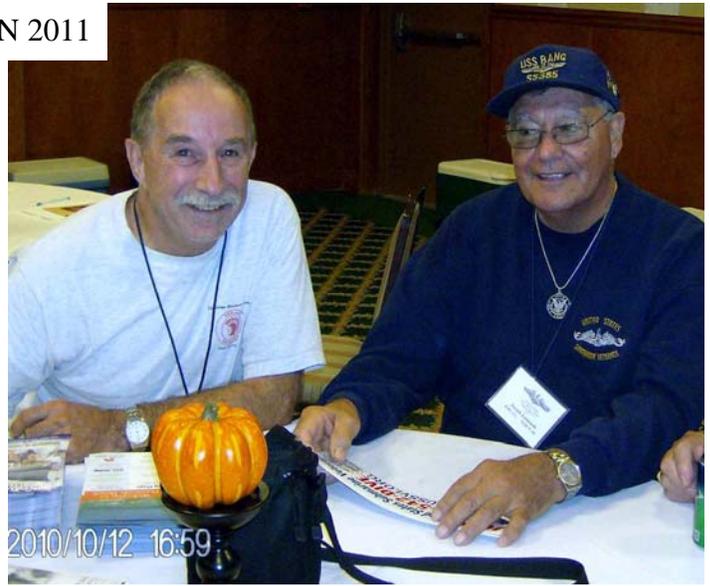
INDIANAPOLIS 1992

Bill Barrell, Ollie Bagby, Ralph Knight, Paul Brunning, Al Trujillo, Jack Cline  
 Bob Cellupica, Dan Rosenfeld, Jim Watson, Dick Taylor, Pete Bates, Russ Johnson  
 "Doc" Coulman, Tony DiBella, Hank Casey, Don Laansma

REUNION 2011



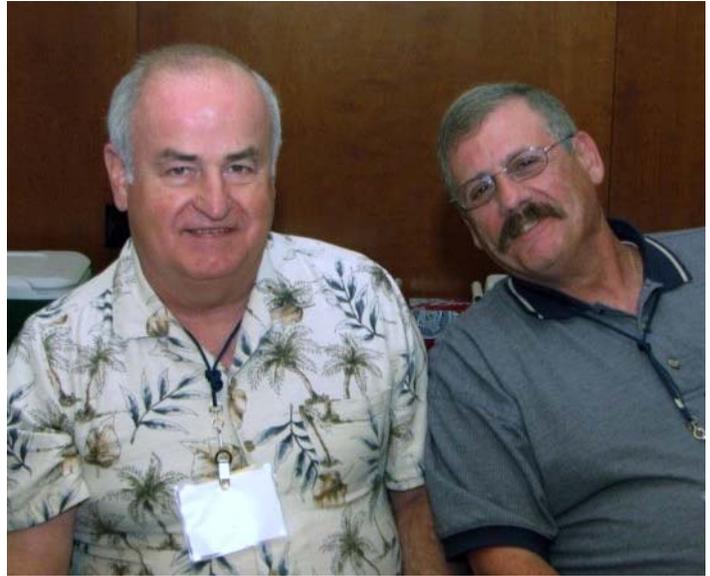
Harry Ross & Gene Lockwood



John Regish & Joe Leonardi



MIA



Paul Schramm & Ike Cohen



Sandra & Ed Moran



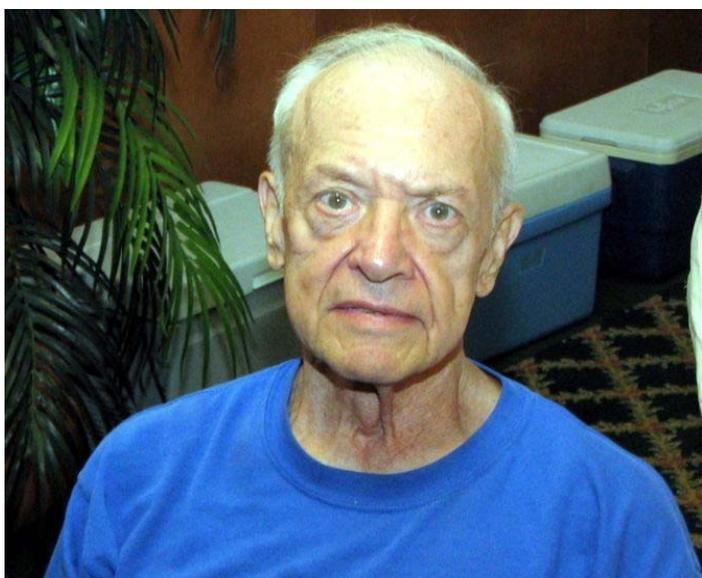
Phil & Dot Beals



Paul Schramm - Bill Fenton - Ike Cohen



Banquet Cake



Charlie Bunkley



Charlie Kimball



Dave Harriss & George Bailey



Eric Ericson & Denis O'Brien



# REUNION UPDATE 2012

## SAN DIEGO, CA



Hello Everyone!

The reunion planning is on schedule and we have a great Reunion planned for everyone so do not hesitate to book your trip **NOW**.

The hotel has a cutoff date of **September 22nd** for our special room rates of \$108 sgl and \$111 dbl per night plus tax. A virtual tour of the hotel showing room selection and amenities can be seen at [www.holidayinn.com/san-baysideca](http://www.holidayinn.com/san-baysideca).

We have also made **September 8th** as the cut off date for trip and banquet reservations in order to supply a head count to the vendors of those events so **BOOK NOW!** Also, take advantage of the discounts we have made available from American Airlines and Avis.

Note: It is most advantageous to book airline tickets on Tuesday evenings.

The Harborview Room will serve as the Hospitality Suite throughout our Reunion and will open on Monday at 1200 for check in and refreshments.

The hotel will host a Welcome Reception on Monday from 1700 to 1800. Hors D'oeuvres and carving station will be served. If you are still hungry afterward, the hotel café is offering a ten (10) percent (%) discount (entire stay) to all Bang Reunion SENIORS age fifty five (55) and older. Unfortunately, the discount does not increase with age.

San Diego has a huge amount of attractions and activities and everyone will have time on Thursday to pick and choose what you want to see. We will be offering discount tickets for most attractions except the transportation will be on your own. The hotel does offer a shuttle service to some locations but you must make arrangements with the hotel Bell Captain. See the Price List for these additional attractions elsewhere in this Newsletter. Arrangements for the tickets in advance can be made with the host (Harry Ross).

Our schedule of events being offered during your stay is as follows:

**Tuesday**, we have arranged for a two (2) hour harbor cruise. After the cruise we will tour the USS Midway Museum and have lunch aboard in the Fantail Café. They will offer a selection of sandwiches (ham, turkey, roast beef and tuna) condiments, chips, soft drink or ice tea or water and cookie. We expect to be back to the hotel by 1730. **Cost per person: \$55.00** all inclusive.

**Wednesday**, we will tour Point Loma Submarine Base in the morning and then will have a buffet lunch at the Seaside Room. After lunch we will tour one of the Navy's latest submarines, availability based on security conditions. We expect to return to the hotel by 1700. **Cost per person: \$ 48.00** all inclusive.

**Thursday**, we will have our business meeting at 0830 in the **Coronado Room** while the ladies will be in the hospitality room doing their thing. The Hospitality Room will close at 1530 to set up for our banquet dinner. We are offering two (2) choices for the entrée. **Tri Tip Beef slices and Chicken Breast Combination** or **grilled Seabass**. Both dinners will have Greek Salad and a special dessert of Kahlua Nut Krunch. All libations (alcoholic drinks) will be self-served from the BANG Hospitality Room inventory. If you have special dietary or drink needs please note them on the back of the registration form. **Cost per person: \$42.00** all inclusive.

Please feel free to contact us, Jo Ann and Harry if you have any questions concerning the Reunion.

*Harry & Jo Ann Ross*  
2882 W 232nd St  
Torrance, CA 90505-2855  
(310) 612-6629  
[harryross@gmail.com](mailto:harryross@gmail.com)

## SAN DIEGO ATTRACTIONS

### BELMONT PARK

Adult	18.00	Regular Price 26.95
Child (under 50")	13.00	Regular Price 15.95
Combo Pass	27.00	Regular Price 40.00
(Unlimited rides & attractions, plus 20 arcade tokens)		
Super Pass	14.00	Regular Price 25.00
(Unlimited attractions and 20 arcade tokens)		

### BIRCH AQUARIUM

Adult	8.00	Regular Price 12.00
Child (Ages 3-17)	5.00	Regular Price 8.50

### FLAGSHIP CRUISES AND EVENTS (AGE 4+)

One Hour	6.00	Regular Price 20.00
Two Hour	8.00	Regular Price 25.00
Sunday Brunch	40.50	Regular Price 52.00
Dinner (incl tip)	46.00	Regular Price 71.50

### HORNBLOWER CRUISES (AGE 4+)

One Hour	6.00	Regular Price 20.00
Two Hour	8.00	Regular Price 25.00
Sunday Brunch	42.00	Regular Price 52.00
Dinner (incl tip)	47.00	Regular Price 71.50

### K1 SPEEDWAY (CARLSBAD)

One (1) race	15.00	Regular Price 29.99
Three (3) races	35.00	Regular Price 50.00

### LEGOLAND ONE DAY (2ND DAY FREE)

Adult	47.00	Regular Price 72.00
Child (Ages 3-12)	47.00	Regular Price 72.00
Senior (Ages 62+)	47.00	Regular Price 72.00
Hopper	57.00	Regular Price 95.00

### SEA LIFE AQUARIUM

Adult	12.00	Regular Price 20.00
Child (Ages 3-12)	12.00	Regular Price 20.00
Senior (Ages 62+)	12.00	Regular Price 20.00

### MARITIME MUSEUM

Adult	10.00	Regular Price 14.00
Child (ages 6-17)	7.00	Regular Price 8.00

### MIDWAY MUSEUM\*

Adult	10.00	Regular Price 18.00
Child (ages 6-17)	8.00	Regular Price 10.00

### OLD TOWN TROLLEY CITY OR SEAL TOUR

Adult	28.00	Regular Price 32.00
Child (ages 4-12)	13.00	Regular Price 16.00

## SAN DIEGO ATTRACTIONS

### RACE LEGAL

Spectator	6.00	Regular Price 8.00
Driver	25.00	Regular Price 30.00

### RUEBEN H. FLEET SCIENCE CENTER – IMAX

Adult	12.00	Regular Price 14.50
Child (ages 3-12)	10.00	Regular Price 11.75

### SAN DIEGO ZOO OR SAFARI PARK\*

Adult	34.00	Regular Price 42.00
Child (Ages 3-11)	26.00	Regular Price 32.00
2-VISIT PASS		

Adult	63.00	Regular Price 76.00
Child (Ages 3-11)	45.00	Regular Price 56.00

### SEA WORLD – SAN DIEGO\*\*

Adult	50.00	Regular Price 73.00
Child (Ages 3-9)	50.00	Regular Price 65.00
Fun Card	62.00	Regular Price 72.00

## SPORT FISHING

### H&M LANDING

3/4 Day	79.00	Regular Price 95.00
1/2 Day	35.00	Regular Price 46.00

## MOVIE THEATERS

### AMC

Gold (New releases)	8.25	Regular Price 11.00
Silver (Movies 2wks+)	6.60	Regular Price 11.00
Popcorn (Small)	3.25	Regular Price 4.00
Drink (Small)	3.25	Regular Price 3.75
Movie Bundle	25.00	Regular Price 33.50
(2 gold tickets, 2 small drinks, and 1 small popcorn)		

### REGAL/EDWARD/UA CINEMAS

Premium (New release)	8.25	Regular Price 11.00
VIP (Movies 2wks+)	6.75	Regular Price 11.00
Ultimate Pack	26.00	Regular Price 34.00
(2 tickets and \$10 concession gift card)		

### SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL

7.00	Regular Price 27.00
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\*FREE for Active Duty with valid ID

\*\*FREE for Active Duty and up to 3 direct dependent children (once per calendar year). Other restrictions may apply.

# U. S. S. BANG (SS - 385)

## 69th Anniversary Reunion

### San Diego, CA

Monday - October 22nd 2011

through

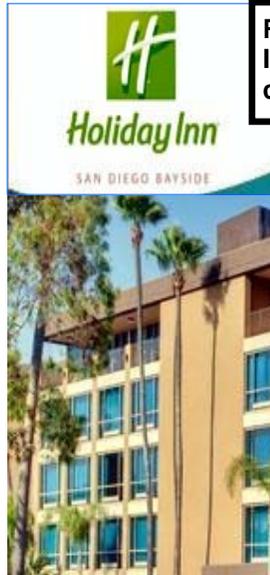
Thursday - October 25th 2011



**Your Hosts—Jo Ann & Harry Ross**

with assistance from Frank Walker & Bob Swank

# HEADQUARTERS



**ROOM RATE \$108 Sgl/ \$111 Dbl + tax**  
**Includes Continental Breakfast or \$6.47**  
**credit towards full breakfast at Café.**

4875 N. Harbor Dr. San Diego, CA 92106 (619) 224-3621

www.holinnbayside.com

(800) 662-8899

**MONDAY**      **OCTOBER 22nd** - Hospitality Room opens at 12:00 noon. Reception - 5:00 p.m.

**TUESDAY**      **OCTOBER 23rd** - 9:00 a.m. - Harbor Cruise & Midway Museum - Lunch included.

**WEDNESDAY**      **OCTOBER 24th** - 9:00 a.m. - Submarine Base & Boat Tour - Lunch included.

**THURSDAY**      **OCTOBER 25th** - 8:30 a.m. - Business Meeting. Hospitality Room closes @ 3:30 p.m.  
5:30 p.m. - Cocktails & Banquet.

----- ✂ Clip Here and Mail To: ----- ✂

**Harry Ross —2882 W 232nd St—Torrance, CA 90505-2855 by **SEPTEMBER 8th****

**YES, I/WE PLAN TO ATTEND THE REUNION.**      **RATE/RANK:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_      **YEARS ABOARD BANG:** \_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_      **PHONE NO:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_      **ST:** \_\_\_\_\_      **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SPOUSE'S / GUEST'S NAME(S):** \_\_\_\_\_

**ARRIVAL DATE:** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_      **DEPART DATE:** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_      **E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NUMBER TAKING HARBOR CRUISE TOUR:**..... \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$55.00 per person. = \_\_\_\_\_

**NUMBER TAKING SUBMARINE BASE TOUR:**..... \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$48.00 per person. = \_\_\_\_\_

**NUMBER ATTENDING BANQUET:**..... \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$42.00 per person. = \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SPECIFY ENTRÉE CHOICE(S)**

**INDICATE HOW MANY?:** ..... \_\_\_\_\_ - Chicken & Beef      \_\_\_\_\_ - Sea Bass

**HOSPITALITY ROOM STIPEND:** ..... @ \$10.00 per person. = \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to **HARRY ROSS****

**TOTAL**      \_\_\_\_\_

PHIL BEALS, EDITOR  
BANG GANG NEWSLETTER  
PO BOX 385  
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.

