

USS STEINAKER (DD/DDR-863)
REUNION ASSOCIATION

Chairman

Frank Price Jr

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Vice Chairman

Robert V. Ward

10102 Turnberry Pl

Lithonia, GA 30038-4189

(678) 789-6628

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Secretary/Treasurer

Ken Kohnen

2477 Royal Pointe Dr.


Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

(904) 654-7321

ken.kohnen@yahoo.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: John Evans, Jimmy Bunch, Bill Combs and Russ Noble.

DEDICATED TO ALL WHO SERVED ABOARD THE
USS STEINAKER DD/DDR-863
Named in Honor of PFC Donald Baur Steinaker - 1st Ranger Battalion, USMCR
Killed in the campaign for Guadalcanal - October 9, 1942



Commissioned — May 26, 1945 — DD-863
Re-commissioned — February 28, 1953 — DDR-863
FRAM Conversion — July 7, 1964 — DD-863
Decommissioned and Transferred to Mexico — February 24, 1982
Part of the US Naval Blockade — Cuban Missile Crisis — 10/62
Awarded Two Battle Stars for Vietnam Service

Still Serving
B.D.Netzahualcoyotl E-04 & E-11 — 1982-1995
ARM Netzahualcoyotl D-102 — 1995-Present

"Surcando Los Mares Al servicio de la Paz"
"Sailing the seas in the service of peace"

Presented by the USS Steinaker Association
May 5, 2006

Shipmates, the 2017 reunion is finished. We have made plans for the 26th STEINAKER REUNION in 2018 to be held at the "Holiday Inn & Suites North Beach," Virginia Beach, VA.....

The annual meeting of the USS STEINAKER Reunion Association was held on the 22nd of April 2017 in Nashville, TN with 120 shipmates and ladies present.

Meeting called to order by the Chairman, John Evans. Elected officers present were John Evans, Vice Chairman, Jimmy Bunch and Secretary/Treasurer Ken Kohnen. Advisor present was Russ Noble. Chairman John Evans welcomed shipmates and noted the large attendance for the 2017 business meeting. The minutes were accepted as published in the annual newsletter. Received and approved the report of the Secretary/Treasurer.

There was no further unfinished business. The Chairman moved to new business. The election of officers was held. Frank Price was nominated and elected as Chairman; Robert Ward was nominated and elected as Vice Chairman. Ken Kohnen was nominated and elected as Secretary/Treasurer.

Frank Price made a motion to create a Board of Directors consisting of John Evans, Jimmy Bunch, Bill Combs, and Russ Noble to maintain oversight and authority over the association and to include current Officers consisting of Frank Price (Chairman), Robert Ward (Vice Chairman), and Ken Kohnen (Secretary/Treasurer). A vote was taken and unanimously approved.

Association unanimously approved giving a \$100.00 VISA Gift card to John Evans, Jimmy Bunch and Russ Noble for all their hard work over the last 25 years.

Russ Noble presented a t-shirt to Doc Evans and Jimmy Bunch with Navy Brothers on the back.

On behalf of the Association Robert Ward presented jackets to Doc Evans and Jimmy Bunch as retirement gifts.

CDR Bob Johannesen, Commanding Officer 78-80, gave each shipmate a souvenir coin.

Chairman, John Evans discussed plans for the 2018 STEINAKER Reunion. Discussion about Baltimore, MD by Frank Price; Washington, DC by Bob Wright; Charleston, SC by John Evans; Branson, MO by John Evans; and Virginia Beach, VA by John Evans and mentioned the dates would be 26-29 April 2018 as 1st choice and 19-22 April 2018 as alternative dates. Members present voted to hold the 2018 STEINAKER Reunion in Virginia Beach, VA. The reunion dates of 26-29 April 2018 were approved.

Discussion was held on going to museums, shows, tours and other events that didn't require a lot of climbing such as touring on board a ship. Historical sites were strongly suggested. Members present voted to have the 2019 STEINAKER Reunion held in either Savannah, GA or Gettysburg, PA.

The Thursday night "Welcome Aboard Reception" was sponsored by Sally Cascini in honor of Frank Cascini. Harry & Ruth Hodum graciously sponsored the luncheon after the tour. CDR Frank Furtado sponsored the bus tours. LCDR Bill Grayson in memory of Mary Lou Grason along with the Steinaker Association sponsored the Banquet. A heartfelt thanks to all for their generous donations and support of the Steinaker Association.

Discussion was held concerning donations. A motion was made by shipmates to donate to the following organizations: Tin Can Sailor's, Inc. \$500.00, USS Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Association \$500.00 (designated for getting Steinaker parts from storage), Navy Relief of Pensacola \$250.00, USS Orleck Naval Museum \$125.00 and the USS Turner Joy Museum Ship \$125.00. We also made a \$500.00 donation to PNP Ladies Auxiliary FRA for the Carolyn Combs scholarship last year.

Banners were presented to the following shipmates for their years of supporting the STEINAKER Reunion Association: CAPT Al Lawler, Jodie Sanders, Jerry "JJ" Johnson, and Denny Jenkins. Thanks much!

Drawing of Free Room nights at the Guesthouse Inns & Suites. Winners were: Ron Rutkofske; Lynne Thoreson; John Woynicz; and Robert Wright. Congratulations!

Discussion was held about the Saturday night auction, the silent auction, and the 50/50 drawing.

The formal business meeting was adjourned. After a five-minute break, shipmates gathered for introductions and acknowledgements by STEINAKER shipmates.

There being no further business the 2017 Annual Meeting of the USS STEINAKER Reunion Association adjourned until 2018.

Presentations by CAPT Lawler's Daughter, CAPT Evie Quattrone and her friend COL Bo Schauer, on their jobs working with the Afghan people while stationed in Afghanistan recently. All members enjoyed their interesting discussions of their roles in that conflict.

Secretary/Treasurer Ken Kohlen made mention of the shipmates who sent dues/donations in support of our shipmates but were unable to attend for various reasons: Don Bair, Alan Brown, Dale Dilling, Jeffrey Duvlea, John Fadely, John Fochtman, Paul Heiland, CAPT Tom Hutt, Anthony Jack, Harvey Johnson, Donald Laferriere, Charles Lehr Jr., Chief William McCormick, Robert R. Miller, Master Chief Wallace Myers Jr., LCDR Stephen Olzinski, LTJG Joseph Pajuf, Senior Chief John Parsons, Chief Eric Pfeiffer, James Rennebaum, David Spence, Ron Thur, Alan Weeks, and Robert A. Williams.

Arrangements have been made to enjoy a Norfolk Harbor Cruise with box lunches. Afterwards we will return to the hotel about 3 PM followed by an evening enjoying TATTOO and will depart the hotel for the Virginia International TATTOO show about 5:45 PM. The whole package should cost \$175.00 per person. This largest spectacle of Music and Might in the United States of America offers an astounding display of inspirational military music, majestic pipes and drums, show stopping drill team maneuvers, colorful and elegant dancers, and much more. Prior to departure for Virginia International TATTOO we are planning a between tour luncheon sponsored by Harry & Ruth Hodum and we will keep you posted.

WE MUST MAKE A PRELIMINARY TOUR COUNT BY MARCH 15TH, 2018 - SO PLEASE HELP THE REUNION COMMITTEE AND GET YOUR RESERVATION IN EARLY!!!!!!!!!!!!!! THANK-YOU...

When making out the checks either for dues or reunion reservations - PLEASE make them out to the "STEINAKER REUNION ASSOCIATION"....

The 2018 Annual Steinaker Reunion will be held April 26th through April 29th, 2018 at the.....

Holiday Inn & Suites North Beach
3900 Atlantic Ave
Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Shipmates - Please contact the "Holiday Inn & Suites North Beach at (757) 428-1711 or (757) 419-3670 and mention USS STEINAKER Reunion (Group Code USQ): I've already booked my reservations and had no problems. If anyone needs help or has a problem making their reservation contact me at (904) 654-7321.....The Holiday Inn & Suites room rates for the STEINAKER reunion are \$119.00 plus taxes of \$18.66 per night for a total of \$137.66 per night. Individuals will be required to make their own reservations. Here is your booking link for making your reservations:

<https://aws.passkey.com/gt/214117416?gtid=89cd78fe28006d7b240915464b669e29>. Please make your reservations early. If you need to cancel there will be plenty of time to do that without penalty.

Parking fees at the hotel you ask: It is free parking for 1 vehicle per room. 🙌

PLEASE make your room reservations EARLY. We have 55 rooms reserved at this "SPECIAL RATE".
PLEASE, PLEASE make your reservations early. We have a "Cut Off" date of MARCH 20th, 2018 for these room rates..... after that the hotel will accept reservations on a space and rate availability basis.....

Norfolk International Airport is approximately 20 miles from the hotel. There are no shuttles from the airport to the hotel, so you are own your own for transportation using a Taxi, Uber, or fellow shipmate.

Shipmates making reservations before March 20, 2018 - will have their names placed in a drawing for a free night stay so don't delay making your reservations.

The Thursday evening "Welcome Aboard Reception" will be a sponsored event by Sally Cascini in memory of our shipmate Frank. Thanks Sally!

The Friday between tour luncheon will be sponsored by Harry & Ruth Hodum. Thank-you Harry & Ruth!

The Saturday evening Banquet Dinner will offer Buffet Dining. Cost of dinner per person is: \$35.00 - all taxes and gratuities are included. This is a very reasonable price because shipmate Bill Grason helped absorb a big part of this cost in memory of Mary Lou Grason. Thanks a bunch Bill.

By the way - The Buffet for Saturday evening will offer: Grilled Breast of Chicken with crispy prosciutto and sun-dried tomato cream sauce; Oven Roasted Salmon with sherry cream and mango salsa; or Slow-cooked Beef tips with mushroom.

Saturday is being left open for the morning business meeting and personal enjoyment.

PLEASE FILL THIS FORM OUT (ON THE NEXT PAGE) AND RETURN IT SO YOU CAN GET IN THE DRAWING FOR THE FREE NIGHTS STAY, IF YOU'RE PLANNING ON ATTENDING.

If you can't attend, please help us by sending in your dues and personal information. Thank You!!!!

FORMS AND MONEY SHOULD BE MAILED TO: Ken Kohnen, 2477 Royal Pointe Dr., Green Cove Springs, FL 32043-7251.

2017 DUES RENEWAL AND 2018 REUNION TOUR/DINNER REQUEST

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

YEARS SERVED ONBOARD: FROM _____ TO _____
HIGHEST RANK/RATE HELD: _____
SPOUSES NAME: _____
TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

DUES (\$15.00) PER YEAR: _____
DUES (\$100.00) FOR LIFE: _____
OTHER DONATIONS: _____
SUB TOTAL: _____

2018 REUNION INFORMATION:

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU'RE ATTENDING THE "THURSDAY EVENING WELCOME ABOARD RECEPTION AND HOW MANY: _____

FRIDAY NORFOLK HARBOR CRUISE + LUNCH: \$85.00 PER PERSON - taxes and gratuities included.

NUMBER _____ X \$85.00 = _____

TATTOO SHOW PREMIUM TICKETS: \$90.00 PER PERSON - taxes and gratuities included.

NUMBER _____ X \$90.00 = _____

BANQUET DINNER: (\$35.00) PER PERSON. MARK YOUR CHOICE AND NUMBER ATTENDING.

(1) BANQUET BUFFET DINNER _____

(2) VEGETARIAN (Special Order) _____

SUB TOTAL FROM BANQUET DINNERS: _____

SUB TOTAL FROM DUES: _____

SUB TOTAL FROM TOURS: _____

SUB TOTAL FROM SHOW: _____

GRAND TOTAL: _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE "STEINAKER REUNION ASSOCIATION".....

This should do it.....if you have any questions give me a call or e-mail me. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in 2018 at the Holiday Inn & Suites North Beach, Virginia Beach, VA As this newsletter goes to print we have had a large number of shipmates who expressed interest in attending the 2018 reunion..... from the STEINAKER Reunion Association Committee, we wish everyone a wonderful summer, a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!! See you at the 26th Annual STEINAKER reunion in 2018!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

25th Annual USS Steinaker Reunion

by

Bill Keleher SOG2 '61-'64

The 25th annual reunion of the USS Steinaker crew commenced on April 20, 2017 in Nashville, TN. This drive proved to be even further than our drive last year to Newfoundland! In spite of our exhaustion, all hands enjoyed a cocktail party sponsored by Sally Cascini in honor of our dear departed shipmate Frank Cascini. This provided an informal setting for us to catch up with news since our last get together. As with past reunions, there are always a number of faces new to us. I believe that our new attendees were well impressed. We all send our thanks and appreciation to Sally for this very generous donation.

Friday morning 8 a.m. we all boarded a bus for a tour of Nashville and surrounding environs. Many of us had never been there before and this was quite exciting. There were a myriad of impressive buildings and parks. I don't think I have seen so many music venues within such a small area! Alas! We were not able to jump off the bus and take advantage of any of them! Soon it was time for lunch and we boarded the General Jackson Showboat. A delicious buffet lunch was followed by a raucous and foot stomping show. Those not so interested in the show were able to sit outside and enjoy the sights along the river. By 3 p.m. we were all back at the hotel to get ready for the evening entertainment at the Grand Ole Opry. Before we left, we enjoyed another fine buffet meal at the hotel thanks to the generosity of Harry and Ruth Hodum.

The Opry was quite the experience. A number of fine acts performed and the audience really seemed to get into the mood. The one mystery to me was the signs on either side of the stage that said...On Air. I couldn't figure out why between the acts they were talking about used cars and other products. Someone finally enlightened me to the fact that on Friday evenings, the show is broadcast on the radio! Overall a well run and efficient venue which we all enjoyed. Thanks to Frank Furtado for covering the bus expenses for our group.

The usual business meeting was held Saturday morning. Details are available in the official report on this website under the heading "Reunion News." The afternoon was left to personal time and many decided to tour the local shopping opportunities.

Dinner commenced at 6 p.m. and even though it was excellent, the action was all around the silent auction. Much more activity than in past years. A good sign. After dinner, Jim Bunch and I performed our usual shitck. No matter how bad we are, there always seem to be a great number of laughs. It feels so good when the audience is with you and at the same time generously contributing to our financial future. By the way, special thanks to Bill and Valerie Grason for sponsoring the Saturday night dinner in memory of Mary Lou Grason. By the time the evening ended, most were tired but more than happy with their new purchases!

Sunday morning is always get ready to leave but before we said good-bye, Joe Tucker took some shipmates to McDonald's behind the hotel. It was ostensibly to show us all how the new Apple watch worked when paying for coffee. Steve Jobs would be rolling over in his grave if he saw how many attempts it took to pay for 3 coffees with that watch! But while there, a funny thing happened. Jerry Blanchette struck up a conversation with the man providing the musical entertainment inside Mc Donald's. What ensued was something to be remembered. At least at this point Tucker's iphone was working properly so he was able to record the event. Click on the link below to see the entire episode.

<https://youtu.be/uyipZbE0CJs>

By now most had departed and the 25th Annual Reunion was relegated to history. See you all next year in Virginia Beach!

We have lost some shipmates since the last reunion and we will have a ceremony at the next reunion. Please keep the families and friends of these shipmates in your thoughts and prayers.

SN Edward Agnella 57-59

Franz Flagg

QMCM Chuck Harrell 65-68

HM1 Frank Homer 65-67

Richard Marciniak

CAPT Donald Nash 71-73

BMC Darrell Pokorny 77-80

CAPT Hal Sacks 67-69 Commanding Officer

RD William O. Houle, Sr. 48-51

The "Grason" Memorial Stone



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Reunion Association
c/o Kenneth Kohnen
2477 Royal Pointe Dr
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043-7251

RETURN ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED