

USS STEINAKER (DD/DDR-863)
REUNION ASSOCIATION

Chairman

Frank Price Jr

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Secretary/Treasurer

Ken Kohnen

2477 Royal Pointe Dr.


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

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 2018 reunion is finished. We have made plans for the 27th STEINAKER REUNION in 2019 to be held at the Hampton Inn & Suites Savannah/Midtown in Savannah, GA.....

The annual meeting of the USS STEINAKER Reunion Association was held on the 28th of April 2018 in Virginia Beach, VA with approximately 100 shipmates and ladies present.

Meeting called to order by the Chairman, Frank Price. Elected officers present were Frank Price, Vice Chairman, Robert Ward and Secretary/Treasurer Kenneth Kohlen. Board of Directors present was John Evans, Russ Noble, and Jimmy Bunch. We also recognized 3 of our Commanding Officers: CAPT George Philipps 1974-1976; RADM Al Rieder 1976-1978; and CDR Robert Johannesen 1978-1980 who were present at the reunion. Chairman Frank Price welcomed shipmates and noted the excellent attendance for the 2018 business meeting. The minutes were accepted as published in the annual newsletter. Received and approved the report of the Secretary/Treasurer after Debbie Lane and Robert Ward audited the checking account.

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. Kenneth Kohlen was nominated and elected as Secretary/Treasurer. David Lane was nominated and elected to the Board of Directors.

Chairman, Frank Price discussed plans for the 2020 STEINAKER Reunion. Discussion about Gettysburg, PA; Newport, RI; Branson, MO; Columbus, OH; and Lake George, NY were discussed and mentioned the dates would be towards the last weekend in April or early May 2020.

Members present voted to hold the 2019 STEINAKER Reunion in Savannah, GA. The reunion dates of 25-28 April 2019 were approved, if feasible.

Members present voted to have the 2020 STEINAKER Reunion held in either Gettysburg, PA or Newport, RI.

The Board of Directors were authorized to provide assistance to Steinaker Reunion members encountering travel related issues for reunion attendance.

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. 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.

John Evans discussed the Steinaker parts that have been received for distribution to the USS Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. and USS Orleck. It was also noted that the USS Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. work day would be from 17-20 May 2018. All are welcome to be part of the fun!

Discussion was held concerning donations. A motion was made by shipmates to donate to the following organizations: Tin Can Sailor's, Inc. \$1,000.00, USS Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Association \$1,000.00 (designated for getting Steinaker parts installed), Carolyn Combs FRA Auxiliary Scholarship Fund \$500.00, USS Orleck Naval Museum \$250.00 and Folds of Honor \$250.00.

Banners were presented to the following shipmates for their years of supporting the STEINAKER Reunion Association: Clark Donnell, David Miller, CAPT Robert Williams, Robert VanHorn, Robert Varnes and Charles Holland. Thank you for your continuous support!

Drawing of Free Room nights at the Holiday Inn & Suites North Beach. Winners were: Jimmy Bunch, Clifford Lewis, Donald Bair, Bill Grason and David Miller. Congratulations!

Robert Ward was the winner of a free 1-year membership to Tin Can Sailors.

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 2018 Annual Meeting of the USS STEINAKER Reunion Association adjourned until 2019.

Secretary/Treasurer Ken Kohnen made mention of the shipmates who sent dues/donations in support of our shipmates but were unable to attend for various reasons: Barry Birch, David Bundy, Vincent Calabrese, Gordon Campbell, Ronald Chandler, Jesse Cole, Paul Colwell, Gerald Dickey, Charles Dilks, Jeff Duvlea, Al Fochtman, Paul Heiland, Charles Isbel, Richard Kachulis, Vincent Labbadia, Donald Laferriere, Al Lawler, Charles Lehr Jr., Merritt Mead, Billy Meringer, Jon Miller, Robert Miller, David Odishoo, Joe Pajuf, Jack Parsons, Eric Pfeiffer, James Rennebaum, Joseph Sanders, Ron Thur, Wesley Vincent, and Calvin Young. Your support is greatly appreciated and hopefully we will see you all at the next reunion.

Signed:

Kenneth J Kohnen

Kenneth Kohnen

Secretary/Treasurer

USS STEINAKER Reunion Association


Friday, **Historic Savannah Tours & Riverboat Cruise.** We will board busses at the hotel at 9:00 AM and proceed to the historic district for a 90-minute private tour; ends at 11:00 AM. Remaining on the busses, we'll proceed to the **Savannah Riverboats** dock for a lunch cruise. At the completion of the cruise, 2:15 PM to 2:30 PM, we board the busses for our return trip back to the hotel. The whole package will cost \$60.00 per person.

WE MUST MAKE A PRELIMINARY TOUR COUNT BY APRIL 11th, 2019 - 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 2019 Annual Steinaker Reunion will be held April 25th through April 28th, 2019 at the Hampton Inn & Suites Savannah/Midtown in Savannah, GA

Shipmates - Please contact the "Hampton Inn & Suites Savannah/Midtown at (912) 721-3700 and identify yourself as a member of USS STEINAKER DD863 2019 Reunion Group or use the online link provided in a separate email. Send an email to ken.kohnen@yahoo.com and I will send you the link. 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 Hampton Inn & Suites Savannah/Midtown room rates for the STEINAKER reunion are \$139.00 plus taxes of \$23.07 per night for a total of \$162.07 per night. This rate is available up to two days prior and two days after the reunion. Daily **hot breakfast** is included. Individuals will be required to make their own reservations. Please make your reservations early. If you need to cancel there will be plenty of time to do that without penalty. Reservations must be made on or before March 25, 2019 to receive this exclusive rate.

Parking fees at the hotel you ask: Complimentary. 

PLEASE make your room reservations EARLY. We have 50 rooms reserved at this "SPECIAL RATE".
PLEASE, PLEASE make your reservations early. We have a "Cut Off" date of MARCH 25th, 2019 for these
room rates..... after that the hotel will accept reservations on a space and rate availability basis.....

What about Airports?

[Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport](#) (between 14 – 18 miles from hotel)

[Brunswick Golden Isles Airport](#) (abt. 61 miles)

[Charleston International Airport](#) (abt. 85 miles)

[Augusta Regional Airport](#) (abt. 105 miles)

Shipmates making reservations before March 26, 2019 - 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 Banquet Dinner's actual cost is \$39.00 plus 22% service charge and 7% GA tax for an estimated
total of **\$51.00**, the fee we will charge is **\$40.00 per person**. There will be a cash bar available at each
function.

The **Saturday Night Banquet Dinner** is *Buffet Style* consisting of:

- Mixed green salad
- Baked herb chicken
- Sliced beef pot roast
- Salmon with sauce
- Buttermilk whipped potatoes
- Green beans
- Broccoli casserole
- Seasonal cobbler

Saturday is being left open for the morning business meeting from 9 AM to Noon 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.

2018 DUES RENEWAL AND 2019 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: _____

2019 REUNION INFORMATION:

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

FRIDAY TOUR AND SAVANNAH RIVERBOAT CRUISE + LUNCH: \$60.00 PER PERSON - taxes and gratuities included.

NUMBER _____ X \$60.00 = _____

BANQUET DINNER: (\$40.00) 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 TOUR/CRUISE: _____

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 2019 at The Hampton Inn & Suites Savannah Midtown, Savannah, GA As this newsletter goes to print, we have had several shipmates who expressed interest in attending the 2019 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 27th Annual STEINAKER reunion in 2019!!!!

26th Annual USS Steinaker Reunion
By Striker: Russ Noble 61-62
Fill-in for Historian Bill Keleher SOG2 61-64

The 26th annual reunion of the USS Steinaker crew commenced on April 26, 2018 in Virginia Beach, VA. Virginia and I had the usual drive. Our conversations were limited to how far is the next rest stop or can you make it an additional 39 miles? Approaching the Hampton Roads Tunnel.... red lights, emergency vehicles, etc. and traffic came to a dead stop. Panic!!!! where are the rest stops... needless to say we made it through the tunnel into Virginia Beach.

The “Welcome Aboard Reception” Thursday evening sponsored by Sally Cascini in honor of our dear departed shipmate Frank Cascini was a huge success. After breakfast Friday morning we boarded a bus for Nauticus/Battleship Wisconsin and a Norfolk Harbor Cruise. Lunch was included. What I found interesting was how knowledgeable the boat captain was explaining different areas along our tour route.

Prior to departing for the Friday evening Tattoo performance, Harry & Ruth Hodum sponsored snacks in the hospitality room. I’d say the snacks were more like a meal - Ham & Swiss Sliders, Fried Chicken Sliders and French Fries. Everyone enjoyed the meal. Thank you so much Harry & Ruth for providing this meal for the crew attending Tattoo.

All I heard Saturday morning prior to the business meeting was what an outstanding performance put on by Tattoo. OH!!! no shipmate got a Tattoo at the performance. Annual business meeting was held Saturday morning. Details are available in the official report on the Steinaker website. The afternoon was left open for personal time. Banquet activities commenced at 6 p.m. with Welcome Aboard, Two-Bell Ceremony, Recognizing Honored Guest, Presentations, etc. Dinner commenced at 6:35 p.m. (LCDR Bill Grason sponsored part of the Banquet Dinner in memory of Mary Lou Grason). Short intermission was taken after dinner than the annual Live & Silent Auctions took place. The usual professional “Jimmy Bunch” was on hand to direct and control the auction. Our Chairman Frank Price asked if I’d step-in an assist Jimmy during the auction - seeing Bill Keleher wasn’t able to attend. I agreed. Believe the auction went well and everyone had a great time. We missed seeing “Michele Keleher” and hearing her bidding while spending Bill’s money at the annual auction.

In closing I’d like to say on behalf of all Shipmates and guests attending - what an “Outstanding Job” our Chairman Frank Price did putting the reunion venue together. We also want to give a “Special Thanks” to Vice-Chairman Robert Ward and Sec/Treasurer Kenneth Kohnen for all their hard work prior, during and of course after the reunion when we all just go home.

See you all next year in Savannah, GA.

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.

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Reunion Association
c/o Kenneth Kohnen
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RETURN ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED