

USS STEINAKER (DD/DDR-863)  
REUNION ASSOCIATION

Chairman

Frank Price Jr

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Secretary/Treasurer

Ken Kohnen

2477 Royal Pointe Dr.

Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

(904) 654-7321

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

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

The annual meeting of the USS STEINAKER Reunion Association was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2021 in Gettysburg, PA with approximately 80 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 were 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 impressive attendance for the 2021 business meeting. The minutes were accepted as published in the annual newsletter. A through audit of the checking account will be conducted at the next reunion.

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. A vote was taken to approve the Board of Directors consisting of John Evans, Jimmy Bunch, Bill Combs, Russ Noble and Jerry Riley.

Chairman, Frank Price discussed plans for the 2023 STEINAKER Reunion. Discussion about Newport, RI to be presented by Bill Clearo and Mobile, AL to be presented by CDR Haskell and mentioned the dates would be after Labor Day in September 2023.

Members present voted to hold the 2022 STEINAKER Reunion in Virginia Beach, VA area. The reunion dates would be after Labor Day weekend and were approved.

Thursday night "Welcome Aboard Reception" was held in honor of Frank Cascini.

A heartfelt thanks to all for their generous donations and support of the USS Steinaker Reunion Association.

Chuck Spencer noted that the USS Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. workday would be from 19-21 May 2022. 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, Carolyn Combs FRA Auxiliary Scholarship Fund \$500.00, and Folds of Honor \$500.00.

Banners were presented to the following shipmates or spouses for their years of supporting the USS STEINAKER Reunion Association: CAPT Tom Hutt Jr 60-61, CAPT Hugh Carroll 67-68, LT Joe Kochanski 66-68, GMSN James Byrd 70-73, PN1 Jon Pineda 77-79 and BM3 Rick Fadely 64-68. Hats were presented to: FN Ronald Grbavcik 53-54, SN Richard Kachulis 61-63, BT3 Henry Zook 54-57 and CDR Richard Greenamyier 68-70. Thank you for your continuous support!

Drawing of three (3) one-hundred-dollar bills towards room nights. Winners were: Rich Strang, Al Tondora and Bob Patton - Congratulations!

Don Bair 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 2021 Annual Meeting of the USS STEINAKER Reunion Association adjourned until 2022.

Secretary/Treasurer Ken Kohnen made mention of the many shipmates who sent dues/donations in support of our shipmates, and some were unable to attend for various reasons. For the years 2020 and 2021 we had over \$10,000 in donations. Now you know how we kept the costs down. When the 2020 reunion was canceled, several of our shipmates donated their registration fees back to the reunion association. We also had a donation in memory of shipmates CAPT Williams and LTJG Horsch. This makes it easy to say how proud we are of all our shipmates.

Your support is greatly appreciated and hopefully we will see you all at the next reunion.

To everyone participating in the auctions and 50/50's your generosity was greatly appreciated. We were able to add over \$3,000 dollars to help keep up with our ongoing expenses.

*Kenneth J Kohnen*

Kenneth Kohnen

Secretary/Treasurer

USS STEINAKER Reunion Association

I am pleased to report that the USS Steinaker DD 863 Reunion will be held on **September 15, 2022**, through **September 18, 2022**, in Virginia Beach VA at the *Holiday Inn Virginia Beach/Norfolk Hotel and Conference Center*, 5655 Greenwich Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23462.

We've planned a fantastic weekend that can be enjoyed by shipmates and family, and I hope all our shipmates will be able to attend. In addition to the time we'll spend catching up and reliving the good old days, our agenda will be very fulfilling.

For starters I look forward to seeing shipmates at our Thursday late afternoon **Welcome Aboard Reception** where we will enjoy hors d'oeuvres and meet up with old and new friends. On Friday morning we begin our **Tour Day** and this year we'll venture off to visit the newly renovated *American Revolution Museum at Yorktown*. This is a Guided Tour in a very assessable museum that will include a great visual presentation as well as other activities in - indoor and outdoor spaces. From Yorktown we will travel to Norfolk VA for a luncheon at the **STRIPERS RESTURANT** at Waterside, where you'll have a choice of items for lunch (choices are to be made when you register for the reunion). After lunch we'll arrive back at our hotel for an evening of free time and the Hospitality Room will be open. Insiders know that *Bill Keleher* will not let a good opportunity to put on a **show** go unused, and I'd bet they'll also be some Savory Food. Saturday morning, we have our annual Business Meeting. Saturday afternoon is free, and the Hospitality Room is open all day; this is a great time to bring down those items that shipmates donate for the Auction on Saturday night. And of course, the **Saturday Evening Banquet and Auction** is the highlight of our weekend reunion; the two guys that run this thing are unbelievable.

Please make your hotel reservation and register for the reunion soon. *You must register for the reunion no later than August 19, 2022, to insure your place on the tours and other activities.* You can book hotel online or call **800.567.3856**. The group booking code is **USD**. The online link is available for those who would prefer to use that method (online is most recommended); please contact Ken Kohnen at [ken.kohnen@yahoo.com](mailto:ken.kohnen@yahoo.com) or Russ Noble at [rvnoble19@gmail.com](mailto:rvnoble19@gmail.com) to get the online link. Our hotel is conveniently located near the Norfolk VA International Airport and the hotel provides free shuttle service to their location; **please call the hotel directly for this service**. Thank you and I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

### Hotel

Our reunion hotel is the **Holiday Inn Virginia Beach/Norfolk**, 5655 Greenwich Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23462. The hotel has provided us with a fantastic rate of \$109.00 (ROH) per night subject to state and local taxes. This rate is available for a day or so before and after our core meeting dates.

**Friday Tour and Luncheon:** Includes round trip motor coach, museum and lunch: \$67 per person. You must choose **one** of the following lunch entrees when you register:

- Chicken Cordon Blue (stuffed with ham and Swiss cheese, mashed potatoes and vegetable of the day)
- Sirloin Tips (sirloin tips, onions, mushrooms served over mashed potatoes and topped with gravy and with the vegetable of the day)
- Fried Flounder (fresh flounder breaded and fried, with French fries and Cole slaw)

Each comes with a house salad and non-alcoholic drink.

**The Saturday Banquet features a Lavish Buffet Dinner:** \$60 per person

Frank Price

*Frank Price*

Chairman

**WE MUST MAKE A PRELIMINARY TOUR COUNT BY AUGUST 19TH, 2022 - 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 2022 Annual Steinaker Reunion will be held September 15 through September 18, 2022, at the**

Holiday Inn Virginia Beach/Norfolk Hotel and Conference Center  
5655 Greenwich Rd  
Virginia Beach, VA 23462

Shipmates - Reunion hotel reservations at the Holiday Inn Virginia Beach/Norfolk, 5655 Greenwich Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23462. The nightly room rate is \$109.00 plus taxes. The hotel has provided us with the same room rates a day or so before and after our core meeting dates. You can book your room online or call 800.567.3856. Our group booking code is USD. The direct number for the Holiday Inn's front desk is 751.499.4400. There are only 70 rooms available at this rate, first come first served.

PLEASE make your room reservations EARLY. We have 70 rooms reserved at this "SPECIAL RATE". PLEASE, PLEASE make your reservations early. We have a "Cut Off" date of August 19, 2022, for these room rates..... after that the hotel will accept reservations on a space and rate availability basis.

Complimentary Airport shuttle.

The Thursday evening "Welcome Aboard Reception" will be held in memory of our shipmate Frank.

The Saturday evening Banquet Dinner will offer Buffet Dining. Cost of dinner per person is: \$60.00 - all taxes and gratuities are included.

By the way - The Buffet for Saturday evening will offer: several choices of lavish foods.

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.**

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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 2022 at the Holiday Inn Virginia Beach/Norfolk Hotel and Conference Center North Beach, Virginia Beach, VA. As this newsletter goes to print, we have had a significant number of shipmates who expressed interest in attending the 2022 reunion..... See you at the 29th Annual STEINAKER reunion in 2022!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

2022 DUES RENEWAL AND REUNION TOUR/DINNER REQUEST

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

YEARS SERVED ONBOARD: FROM 19\_\_ TO 19\_\_  
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: \_\_\_\_\_

2022 REUNION INFORMATION:

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

FRIDAY TOUR AND LUNCHEON: \$67.00 PER PERSON - taxes and gratuities included.

NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ X \$67.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** (Choose only one per person)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Cordon Blue
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sirloin Tips
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fried Flounder

BANQUET DINNER: (\$60.00) PER PERSON. MARK YOUR CHOICE AND NUMBER ATTENDING.

NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ X \$60.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

SUB TOTAL FROM BANQUET DINNERS: \_\_\_\_\_  
SUB TOTAL FROM DUES: \_\_\_\_\_  
SUB TOTAL FROM TOURS: \_\_\_\_\_  
GRAND TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

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



The citation given by the President of the United States upon the posthumous awarding of the Navy Cross said in part: "Lieutenant Orleck calmly and expertly directed the fire-fighting activities, the control of serious flooding and the transfer of all survivors to the rescue ships. Valiant and determined in the face of imminent peril, he remained aboard the stricken NAUSET in an attempt to beach her and prevent total loss, working desperately until she struck an enemy mine and sank. Lieutenant Orleck's indomitable fighting spirit and selfless devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Navy."

Lieutenant Orleck who had received numerous other medals during his life was honored with the rare naming of a ship, a United States Destroyer, after him. The ship was approved on 11 January 1945, launched 12 May 1945 and commissioned on September 15, 1945. It is from humble beginnings that a great ship with a great history developed.

Having been commissioned right at the end of World War II the ship entered into service at the beginning of what became known as the "Cold War" and through all those years she operated in that atmosphere with her service primarily in the 7th Fleet in the Pacific. Through that era and into the times of Korea, Vietnam, up until 1982 she served her country well. She always had good crews. She always out-performed other ships of her kind. In Korea she was the initiator of the "Train Busters Club" in that she took out two enemy supply trains in the mountains as she silently and without lights waited in a cove for the train to approach, then opened fire shooting out the tracks before the train and then behind. At that point she would then spend the necessary time to blow the remainder of the train apart. This remarkable accomplishment was performed on two different occasions. After that, other ships got the idea, and many performed the same feat.

During Vietnam she gained the reputation of Top Gun, having fired more rounds in support of our ground troops than any other ship. She developed the nickname, "Grey Ghost of the Vietnam Coast" because she always seemed to be there to provide fire cover for pinned down marines who called for her assistance. At the later part of her service she was used as a training vessel for our Naval Reserve Forces. At times she starred in movies and her most notable was in "Winds of War" mini-series. Those 5-inch guns you saw Pug Henry in front of. menacingly turning looking for its target, are her guns.

In December 1962 in what allowed her to continue as an active and effective Naval vessel she underwent what is known as a FRAM modernization. In this process she was equipped with the most modern equipment and weapons found on destroyers including ASROC Missile Launchers and DASH Systems which were unmanned helicopter drone systems that could launch offensive attacks on submarines. With these improvements she now had the capability to meet the needs of the modern Navy that required her to be able not only to be effective against subsurface and surface ships but also to be effective in anti-aircraft situations as well.

## USS Orleck DD-886 (Now in Jacksonville)

USS STEINAKER (DD/DDR-863) Reunion Association  
c/o Kenneth Kohlen  
2477 Royal Pointe Dr  
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043-7251

RETURN ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED