



1943



1972



# THE BANG GANG NEWS LETTER

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

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**ED KRACKER FEBRUARY 6, 2022**





# 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 1MC.

## Hello Shipmates. Spouses, and Friends,

Well it's that time again in more ways than one. Newsletter time and once again, which is beginning to look like the trailer to *Groundhog Day*, announcing yet again, for the *third* time, plans for the reunion!

Only this time, it is for real! We **WILL** be having the reunion! The registration form will be in here and there will be some basic info about tours, hotel, and areas of interest.

As you can see we are a little late getting this newsletter out. The primary reason was that I had some fancy footwork to do regarding the hotel and tour schedule that took a little time to complete as many things were in flux as they say. The new contract for the hotel did not specify the room rate included breakfast, so I had to chase the catering manager to get clarification. I finally got a hold of her and yes, buffet breakfast for two is included in the rate. Then there was the tour schedule. Originally, our schedule was Tuesday at the Marine Corps museum and then on to Mount Vernon. Then on Wednesday, the Washington Navy Yard Museum, then on to the Nation's capitol for a tour. Well, Tuesday is still set in stone, and we are still going to the Navy Museum, but they just reopened the Capitol to tours but only limited to groups of fifteen. That wouldn't do for us. So I scrambled around, with invaluable help from our Treasurer/Storekeeper Ike Cohen, to find alternative venues. And between the two of us I think we've found a very viable and entertaining replacement. After the Navy Museum, we will journey up to Pennsylvania Avenue and stop at the Navy Memorial and tour the "Lone Sailor" monument, with time for souvenir pictures, they also have a small museum and visitor center. Then on to Arlington National Cemetery where we will lay a bouquet of flowers at the grave of former Commanding Officer Stu Savage. Then, if the stars are in line, and Jupiter is aligned with Mars, we hope to secure a tour of the Pentagon. This is the tricky part, as requests can only be made 90 days out and with the situation in Ukraine it may be tight. In any case, as a last we can visit the 9/11 memorial outside the Pentagon, which is open to the public. So, keep your fingers crossed!

You may, and be completely correct in saying, "Wow, we are going to a lot of museums!" Well, folks it so happens that Washington DC IS a museum! So, I'd make the most of your visit and see as much as you can. The room rate is good for three days before and three days after the reunion, so it's a great opportunity to venture out and see the many sights. And remember, almost all are free! Most of the pertinent information regarding the reunion will be in the registration form, and I'll have more info in the "Lucky Bag."

Finally, let's end this on a very happy note! I, and Treasurer Ike, called and you answered! The plea for slush fund replenishment was swift and plentiful. So many shipmates, spouses, and friends sent in checks that I had to redesign the Lost and Found page to fit them all in. A task I will gladly repeat any time. So thank you very much for your generosity. But this is not a one time thing, so keep sending those checks in. Besides, the "Editorial Board" is due for a raise. Just kidding!



**USS BANG (SS 385)  
79TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION  
WASHINGTON, DC  
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 18TH 2022  
THROUGH  
THURSDAY-SEPTEMBER 22ND 2022**



**YOUR HOSTS**

**ERIC & SALLY ERICSON    JENNIFER WILSON**



**HEADQUARTERS HOTEL  
HILTON DOUBLETREE CRYSTAL CITY  
300 ARMY NAVY BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 2202  
1 (703) 416 4100  
ROOM RATE  
\$119.00 +TAX (INC BRKFST)**

**MENTION USS BANG REUNION**

**SUNDAY 9/18-EARLY BIRD ARRIVAL HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN 1200**

**MONDAY 9/19-CHECK-IN-GET WELCOME PACKAGE HOSP RM 1000**

**TUESDAY 9/20– 0930-BUS LEAVES FOR MARINE CORPS MUSEUM  
AND MT VERNON**

**WEDNESDAY 9/21-1000-BUS LEAVES FOR WASHINGTON NAVY YARD  
NAVY MEMORIAL AND ARLINGTON CEMETERY**

**THURSDAY 9/22-0900 BUSINESS MEETING/LADIES TRIVIA  
1730 COCKTAILS, PICTURES, BANQUET, GUEST  
SPEAKER**

**FRIDAY 9/23– CHECK-OUT**

**CLIP AND SEND THIS PAGE WITH YOUR CHECK BY AUGUST 1, 2022 TO:**

**ERIC H ERICSON III  
926 SAVANNAS PT DR APT A  
FT. PIERCE, FL 34982-5163  
MAKE ALL CHECKS OUT TO ERIC H ERICSON**

**YES! I/WE PLAN TO ATTEND THE REUNION**

**RATE/RANK \_\_\_\_\_ -**

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_**

**YRS ON BANG \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_**

**ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE#(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_**

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

**SPOUSE/GUEST NAME \_\_\_\_\_**

**ARRIVAL DAY \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DAY \_\_\_\_\_**

**NUMBER ATTENDING USMC MUSEUM/MT VERNON \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$75.00PP TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_**

**NUMBER ATTENDING NAVY YARD/ ARLINGTON TOUR \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$55.00PP TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_**

**HOSPITALITY ROOM STIPEND PER ADULT \_\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_**

**NUMBER ATTENDING BANQUET @ \$68.00 \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_**

**ENTRÉE CHOICES INCLUDE GARDEN SALAD, VEGETABLE, DESSERT**

**SLICED TOP ROUND OF BEEF # \_\_\_\_\_ GRILLED SALMON# \_\_\_\_\_ CHICKEN MILANESE# \_\_\_\_\_**

**PENNE PASTA WITH GRILLED CHICKEN# \_\_\_\_\_**

**GRAND TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_**

**SPECIFY ANY SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS \_\_\_\_\_**

**PLEASE WRITE YOUR FAVORITE ADULT BEVERAGE AND SNACKS HERE:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**ANY ADDITIONAL GUESTS?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# LOST AND FOUND

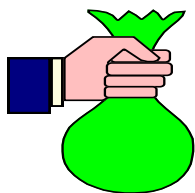


**This page is dedicated to informing you of any additions, deletions, or corrections to our active roster.**

It has been brought to our attention that the following shipmates have passed away and will be placed on Eternal Patrol.

**ED KRACKER (PLANK OWNER,WP 1,2,3,4,5)  
STUART GRANT MURRAY (XO)  
THOMAS L. BURNETT (TM)**

**SHIPMATES, REST YOUR OARS**



## THANK YOU!

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



**LUIS ARELLANO  
WAYNE & ELAINE THALASINOS  
JIM & HARRIET SCHULTZ  
MARV & JoANN CHRISTENSON  
GABE & PAM LEWIS  
ERIC & SALLY ERICSON  
DARRELL ROBLEE  
WILLIAM & KATHLEEN POWELL  
RICHARD PETRINO  
BASIL & ELAINE ASTERIADES  
JOHN P. STEWART  
DICK FLANAGAN  
ELOISE N. CLARKE  
CAPTAIN DAVID KREIGER  
THOMAS STEET  
ALAN & LINDA THOLE  
JIM G. SEBASTIAN  
DENIS & MAUREEN O'BRIEN  
ED 'TEX' SCHOVAJSA  
GERALD & CONSTANCE SIMPSON  
LARRY MEAIKE**

**ANDY McKAYE  
LENNY & SHARON SCIUTO  
LEO & CATHERINE GIBSON  
SHARON SWANSON-IN MEMORY OF ROGER CLARK  
MARLENE CARLSON-IN MEMORY OF FRITZ CARLSON  
BETTY MANNING- IN MEMORY OF JACK E. MANNING  
JOHN A. ANDERSEN- ANDERSEN FAMILY TRUST  
MAUREEN FLAHERTY-IN MEMORY OF VINCENT MONTESANO**

**IN ADDITION THE FOLLOWING READERS HAVE SWITCHED TO THE E-EDITION**

**LARRY SCHAEFER  
WAYNE THALASINOS  
DON IAMMARINO  
RAYMOND MOORE  
SOMEWHERE A SOUTHERN YELLOW PINE IS THANKING YOU!**

**THE FOLLOWING SHIPMATE HAS CHANGED HIS ADDRESS  
WALTER CEDERHOLM      [wceder21@gmail.com](mailto:wceder21@gmail.com)**



**Stuart Grant Murray**—Deployed on Eternal patrol on January 17, 2022. Born on May 12, 1922, Stuart was the eldest son of



ADM Stuart Shadrack Murray USN and Madeleine Young Murray. He joined the Naval Reserves at 17 and went through flight training school before the age of 20. Stuart graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering from the United States Naval Academy class of 1947. Former President Jimmy Carter was a classmate. While at Annapolis, Stuart was his brigade's Heavyweight boxing champion. Upon graduation, Stuart circled

the globe on a destroyer, then entered Naval Submarine School in New London in 1948. Upon graduation, he was assigned to the USS BECUNA. Among his other assignments he was the Engineering and Navigation Officer aboard the USS JALLAO, Executive Officer aboard the USS BANG. He served 27 years in the Navy and retired in 1966 with the rank of Lieutenant Commander. After retirement from the Navy, Stuart worked 20 years analyzing submarine warfare for private contractors such as CONRAC, Litton, and General Electric. After retiring from General Electric, Stuart launched a radon testing company and was a manager of an H&R local office in Gales Ferry CT.

**Thomas L. Burnett, Jr.**—Departed on Eternal Patrol on May 3, 2021 at home. Tom was born in Pittsburgh, PA on December 25th to Thomas and Elizabeth Burnett Sr. He served on submarines in the United States Navy for 23 years, as well as Signature Flight Support for over 20 years. Tom served as a Torpedoman's Mate Third Class on the BANG from 1961-63.



**Edward Henry (Ed) Kracker**— Our shipmate Ed departed on Eternal Patrol on February 6, 2022. He served in the Navy from 1942 to 1964. He was a plank owner of the BANG and qualified in 1944, and was a veteran of War Patrols 1,2,3,4, and 5. In addition to the BANG, he also served on United States Submarines POMPON SS 486, CHIVO SS 341 and CHOPPER SS342. He retired from the Navy as a CWO2. Ed made it clear that he did not want any ceremony at his passing and plans are being coordinated to have a burial at sea. There are two sure things in life, Franklin once said, “death and Taxes”. One could add a third, “that Ed and his beloved wife

June Kracker would be present at a BANG reunion.” Ed would often be found holding court at a hospitality room table at the reunion, ready to talk to all present and impart any sea story that came to mind. I think the best recollection of Ed was during the reunion in New London. After a tour of the Submarine School, Ed spoke to a group of students about life in the “Pig Boats” during WWII and what it felt like to be depth charged for hours on end. One instructor said he had never seen a group of students so mesmerized in all his years at Sub School. But that was Ed.





# THE LUCKY BAG

## **Dear Shipmates, spouses, and friends,**

As you can see, and have read, this issue is mainly about the upcoming reunion. Seeing that this is also the third time we've gone through this exercise, a lot of it may seem redundant. However, I just want to make sure we are all up to speed, and it may be new to some of our newly rediscovered shipmates, who we all hope will be coming to the festivities. So here is a quick rundown of what to expect.

I picked Washington DC, (it seems eons ago) because it is our Nation's Capital and it would be nice to see the many Naval themed attractions that are there. Little did I realize that a world wide pandemic and a little extracurricular disturbance would cause an almost three year hiatus. I also picked it because it is quite easy to get to. As an example:

Our hotel is one stop on the Metro from Reagan National, it is also a quick cab ride away. It is also right off I-95 if you are driving, and finally Union station, if you coming in by Amtrak, is again just a short cab ride away. Washington Dulles Airport is also nearby but necessitates a couple of stops and changes on the Metro, and is a little more expensive by cab. I'd opt for Reagan if you're flying in. The Doubletree is in Crystal City, which is close by to many restaurants and shopping. It also means we won't be spending an inordinate amount of time on the tour bus. Speaking of the hotel, like many hotels in large cities, there is a parking fee on site. We had one in New Orleans. The fee at the Double Tree is usually \$49.00/ per day, however the hotel has given us a greatly reduced price of \$15.00/ per day. As I mentioned in the earlier FPO page, there is so much to see in DC that one week is never enough, in fact one can spend a month there and not see everything. I'd serious consider extending your stay by a couple days at either end to get the full experience. The hop on-hop off tour of the Mall is, in my opinion, the best one day tour in the country. The Smithsonian Museum, and all its sections, is another must see venue. Especially if your kids or grand-kids are coming along.

So, make your hotel reservations now, and don't forget to mention that you are with the USS BANG group. I honestly think this will be one of the best reunions we've had in a long time. We all know we are ready for one. The next Newsletter will have more detailed info on getting around DC and what you need to know about some of our tour stops.

Finally, I came across an expression the other day that I've heard, it seems, a thousand times. It was the oft mentioned "when one door closes, another one opens." I guess it's meant to say that if one opportunity is closed, another one is sure to follow. I, on the other hand, think it means you used the wrong carpenter.

Take care, and I'll see you in a couple of months, straight board and zero bubble!





Eric H. Ericson, III-Editor  
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926A Savannas Pt. Dr.  
Ft. Pierce, FL 34982-5163



FIRST – CLASS MAIL  
FORWARDING SERVICE  
REQUESTED



PRAISE OUR MILITARY! - AND PRAY FOR THEM TOO.

