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THE BANG GANG NEWSLETTER

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

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WINTER/SPRING 2010

WWW.USSBANG.COM

ISSUE-55



Robert A. Jutstrom
1923—2009



James E. S. Warden
1917—2010



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.

Robert A. Jutstrom, MoMM (43-46) WP1,2,3,4,6

James E. S. Warden, Officer (43-44) WP1,2,3,4

Charles L. Bretthauer, SN (44) WP3

Raymond J. Comeau, SN (57)

James H. Thomson, YN (63)

Johnny W. Boggess, TM (66-69)

James A. Fricke, FTG (69-71)

Jack L. Myers, RM (55-56)

John T. Springer, TM (66-70)

Harvey R. Hveem, HM (60-61)



SHIPMATES, REST YOUR OARS!

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.

LASTNAME	FIRSTNAME	ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIPCODE	PHONE	Y-O-B
Bunkley	Charles J	3339 Handy Rd Apt 415	Tampa	FL	33618-4625	(339) 545-6934	53-55
Cadenhead	Albert E	448 Bradford Rd	Newport	NH	03773-1993	(603) 863-6854	44-45
LaPorte	Benjamin J	122 Ralph Hoss Rd	Jonesborough	TN	37659-6513	(423) 753-0335	57-60

The following shipmate is a new (found) addition to our roster. Your committee is thankful for all your help in locating him and we will continue our search until we have attempted to locate everyone.

LASTNAME	FIRSTNAME	ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIPCODE	PHONE	Y-O-B
Ipema	Neal J	16422 E Sullivan Dr	Fountain Hills	AZ	85268-4427	(480) 837-1770	65-67



THANK YOU!

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

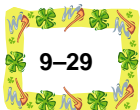


**Conyal Cody
Joe Cwiklinski**

**Karl Evans
Bill Fenton
Fred Gers**

**Cris Gurion
Tom Maguire
Stu Savage**

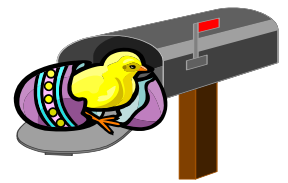
**Jim Schultz
Wayne Schutter
C.O. (Joe) Taff**



**THE INTERNET CONNECTION
CHANGES SINCE LAST PUBLICATION**

**Pete Rocco . procco2@cfl.rr.com
Carl Weber . cw320@.att.net**

**Happy 
St. Patricks Day**



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!

2010 is sure starting out to be a "record breaking" year. Our representatives in DC have spent us into record breaking debt—eleven trillion (that's an awful lot of zeros) the last time I looked. We could build fleets of submarines with that much money. Weather-wise, record snowfalls and low temperatures have blanketed much of the country. Here in FL a record was set for most consecutive days (11) the temperature stayed below 60 degrees. Those in the know blame it on EL Nino but I think it has something to do with the Saints winning the Super Bowl and Hell freezing over.

Even this Newsletter has set a record for the most obituaries posted in a single issue (10). That's more than we have reported in some past years. I know the "BANG Gang" is, so to speak, a dying breed, but why do we have to take it so literally? What say we hold off on the final patrol orders until we get so many Reunions under our belt that we get sick and tired of looking at each others ugly faces.



Bob Jutstrom, besides being an original 'plank owner' and participant in 5 war Patrols, had a lot to do with making the 'Bang Gang' what it is today. A founding father so to speak.

Along with **Ralph Knight** he co-hosted BANG's 50th Anniversary Reunion in 1993. Wanting to do something special they decided to invite all shipmates of BANG to attend

instead of just the WWII vets as was in previous years. The response was so over-whelming that the restriction stayed off permanently and the 'Bang Gang' organization was born. I can honestly say that without that decision being made back then, you would not be reading this Newsletter today.

Bob again volunteered to co-hosted another successful Reunion in Groton 2001. And, again, made it special by sending personal invitations to all the Skippers of BANG requesting their attendance. And they responded in the affirmative.

Bob's love for BANG and his shipmates made he and wife, Barbara, regular attendees of all our Reunions until recently when his illness restricted his

ability to travel.



Robert A. Jutstrom Sr., of Mashpee, Mass, formerly of Weymouth, passed away on Dec. 13, 2009, after a lengthy illness.

He was the beloved husband of Barbara J. (Donaldson) Jutstrom of Arlington for 64 years.

Bob was born in Coos Bay, Ore., in 1923, and graduated from Marshfield High School in 1941.

During World War II, he served on the submarine USS BANG (SS

385) for five war patrols in Japanese waters. After the war, Bob was advanced to chief engineman in the Naval Reserve. He had graduated from both Wentworth Institute and Northeastern University, cum laude.

In addition to his wife Barbara, he is survived by his children, Robert Jr. and wife Christine of Waltham, Deborah Parker and husband Edward of Greenwich, Conn., and Karen Desantis of Worcester. Also surviving are six grandchildren.

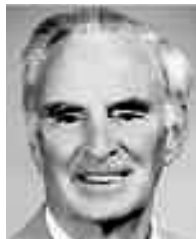
Mr. Jutstrom worked for the New England Electric System for 38 years as an electrical engineer in the Meter and Communication division. He was well known nationally for his many years of work on the NFPA National Electrical Code. He was chairman of the Code Panel on Electrical Services for more than 15 years.

In 1986, he permanently moved from Weymouth to his home in Mashpee, which he built in 1971. While in Mashpee, he was a very active member of Christ the King Church. He was also an active member of the U.S. Submarine Veterans WWII, Mass Bay State East Charter. Bob was a life member of the Weymouth Sportsmen's Club, and also a member of the Mashpee Men's Club. He was an avid fisherman and had fished in 15 states and Canada. Once he said, "That his 67-day fishing trip, on a 34-foot trawler with his lifelong friend, Dewey Wilson, traveling 3,700 miles on the water from Coos Bay, Ore., to Glacier Bay, Alaska, and return; was a present from his loving wife Barbara."

A funeral Mass was celebrated on Friday, Dec. 18, 2009, at Christ the King Church, Mashpee, followed by burial at Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The American Cancer Society P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718.

Jim Warden was another of BANG's plank owners who served his country well. Years ago he sent me a poem that he wrote in 1945 after he had left BANG. After reading it, I believe it was inspired by BANG's 3rd war patrol which he participated in. Because of space restrictions in this issue I will publish it in an upcoming edition. As you will read in his obituary, like most of us, Jim was a peace loving man who loved his country.



James E.S. Warden, 92, of Ballston Lake, NY died unexpectedly at home on Monday, January 11, 2010.

Born in Washington, DC on December 12, 1917, the son of Horace and Mary Warden, James graduated from Riverdale Country Day School, and MIT with a degree in engineering. He served in

World War II as a lieutenant on submarine USS BANG (SS 385) and successfully made four war patrols in the South Pacific. He received the Bronze Star for meritorious service.

James was employed at GE as a manager with KAPL for 24 years and was construction manager of the West Milton Site. He started and was president of Tri Nuclear Corp in 1975 and remained active in the business designing equipment until his death.

He leaves his wife of 63 years, Elizabeth Lyman; a son, James L. Warden, (wife Debra); daughters, Lindsay Coppinger (husband Roy) and Susan Groh, (husband Greg); grandchildren, Lyle, Lara, Erin Coppinger, Katherine Warden Dobric, Rachel Warden, Jennifer Groh Lederer, James Groh, Christie Groh LeVake; and five great-grandchildren.

His passion and purpose in life was to serve His Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He supervised the building of East Glenville Church. He was a deacon and elder at East Glenville and 1st Presbyterian Churches. He taught men's bible classes, organized an area pastors group, and mentored many men over the years. He wrote hundreds of bible studies. He led his family well. He was a man highly respected and deeply loved.

Memorial services were at First Presbyterian Church on Union Street, Schenectady, N.Y., Friday, January 15.

Contributions can be made to First Presbyterian Church, Schenectady City Mission or the Alpha Pregnancy Care Center.

Charles L. Bretthauer died in Amarillo, TX on September 6, 2007. I mailed the last Newsletter to him and it came back as 'address unknown—unable to forward'. I then went on-line and found out that he had passed away in 2007 so it was too late to find an obit or picture.



Jim Fricke was instrumental in bringing the 'Bang Gang' into the 21st century. He spent both time and money to initially set up our web site and then for years he maintained it. He finally asked to be relieved claiming his work was demanding more of his time. I know now that may not have been the real reason.

Jim and I developed a good friendship communicating mostly by e-mail and phone. He attended our 2001 Reunion but due to the high attendance I only got to talk with him briefly.

Theresa (Fricke) Grimm sent us the following about her brother:

I wanted to let you know that my brother, Jim Fricke passed away September 27th of this year. He had a very rare form of cancer and even after a bone marrow transplant, he lost his battle. He and his wife Vicki had been married for 40 years and lived in Florida for many years. His remains will be scattered off the Great Wall in the Cayman Islands sometime in 2010. He was an avid diver and this is where he wanted his final resting place to be.

My husband Gary Grimm served with Jim on Bang (69-72) and it was through my brother that I met him— Gary was a cook and Jim a fire control technician.

When we were reading about Henry "Poo" Conoly in the last Newsletter, many memories came back and Gary and I thought we should let you know about Jim.

Gary and I are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Bang reunion next year. It's been too long and as we know, life is too short.



James Adrian Fricke, 62, of Parkland, FL, formerly of Niantic CT, passed away on Sunday, September 27th, 2009 after a courageous fight with cancer.

He was born in New London, CT on September 24, 1947 to Vivian Fricke of East Lyme and the late Adrian James Fricke. Jim served in

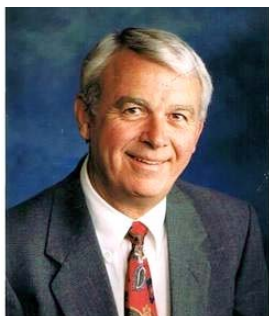
the Navy during the Vietnam era until 1971.

At the time of his death, he worked as the Manager of South Florida Sales for Presidio Networked Solutions. Jim's hobbies were many but his passions were photography and scuba diving.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Vicki (Moore) Fricke, his mother, and sisters, Linda Massengale, Theresa (Gary) Grimm and Elizabeth Pendergast as well as many nieces and nephews. Services were held at Babione Funeral Home, Boca Raton, FL on October 1st. His burial will be at a later date off the shores of the Grand Cayman Islands.

Donations in his memory can be sent to Hospice by the Sea Care Center 1531 W. Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton, FL 33486.

Jack Myers and I served aboard BANG together for about 8 months. Since it was my first 8 months aboard, I spent most of my spare time tracing air lines, water lines, and hydraulic systems while Jack and **Dale Larson** went ashore to volunteer their services at the local mission. So, it wasn't until Jack started attending our Reunions did our friendship grow. Like me, Jack soon became a permanent fixture and I always looked forward to seeing him each year and renew our friendship. Now he is gone and I will dearly miss his annual presence. Farewell to a good friend and shipmate. We will meet again.



Jack L. Myers, 74, of Napoleon, OH, died Saturday afternoon, January 23, at the Napoleon Lutheran Home.

He was born on June 20, 1935 in Napoleon, OH, the son of Howard and Helena (Wisemberger) Myers. On March 11, 1970, he married Judy Willeman of Napoleon, who survives.

Jack worked in management at the Campbell Soup Co. of Napoleon for 41 years, retiring in 1998. He was a U.S. Navy veteran where he served on the submarine USS Bang. He was a former member of Christ United Methodist Church. He was a member of the American Legion Post 300, Napoleon, OH, where he served many years as honor guard, the VFW Post, New Bavaria, OH, and the Elks Lodge 929, Napoleon, OH, where he was three times exalted ruler and past district deputy.

He was a 1953 graduate of Napoleon High School and attended Bowling Green State University.

Surviving also are two sons, Jack (Tina) Myers and Rob (Cynthia) Myers, both of Napoleon; three grandchildren; one brother, Larry "Mick" (Harriet) Myers of CA; and one sister, Sandra Meyer, Westhope, OH.

He was preceded in death by a grandson, Ryan Myers.

Services were held at the Walker Mortuary, Napoleon, OH, with Rev. Lee Genter officiating. Interment will be made in Glenwood Cemetery where military honors will be accorded by the joint veterans' posts of Napoleon.

The family has suggested that memorial contributions may be made to Honor Flight for World War II veterans in Washington, D.C.

Gene Lockwood forwarded this e-mail from Harvey's grandson. No obituary or photo was included.

Harvey Hveem Sorry I've taken so long to respond to you. I think you may be talking about my grandfather Harvey Hveem. I know he was in the service but would have to verify that it was the USS Bang SS385. I regret to inform you though that my grandfather passed away in November '08. I'm sure you guys were good friends.

Bill Fenton sent this notification about John:



John T. Springer, 62, of Dover, OH passed away on Saturday, Jan. 2, following a battle with cancer. He was born in Dover on March 30, 1947, to the late Elden Springer and Wilma (Wampfler) Springer who resides at New Dawn in Dover.

John graduated from Dover High School in 1965. He served four years in the U.S. Navy aboard the U.S.S. Bang. He was stationed at the sub base in Groton, CT.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by his wife of 41 years, Diane (Leonetti) Springer whom he married on June 15, 1968; three children, Nick (wife, Marsha) Springer of Newcomerstown, Scott (wife, Tracy) Springer of Dover, and Amy (husband, Chris) Aureden of NC; four grandchildren Julie, Jason, Erick and Samantha complete the family. He also leaves behind two sisters, Linda (husband, John) Gilgen of SC and Penny (husband, Dale) Gerber of Massillon; two brothers, Joe (wife, Debbie) Springer of New Philadelphia and Mike Springer and his companion, Cheryl of Sarasota, FL; his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Sandy and Eleanor Leonetti of Strasburg along with many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by a brother, Larry.

John retired from the Timken Company with 37 years as a Quality Control Technician. Following retirement, he enjoyed golfing with his brother Joe and uncle Jay. He and his wife enjoyed traveling to see all of the Bicentennial Barns and covered bridges in Ohio.

John was cremated and interred at Dover Burial Park with the Dover VFW conducting military honors.

Those who wish to honor John's memory can make a contribution to Hospice of Tuscarawas County, 201 W. 3rd St., Dover, OH. 44622

Harry Ross sent in the following on the passing of Jim Thomson that was posted by the Perch Base Chaplain. No photo or obituary could be located.

Perch Base shipmate **James Thomson** departed on eternal patrol November 8. Jim joined USSVI and Perch Base in 2001. Living in Flagstaff, he is survived by his wife, Janet.

He qualified on the USS Theodore Roosevelt (SSBN-600) in 1963 and served on the following boats; **USS Bang (SS-385)**, USS Hardhead (SS-365), USS Daniel Webster (SSBN-626), USS Thomas Edison (SSBN-610), USS James Madison (SSBN-627). Jim retired from the Navy as a STSCS(SS).



Ray Comeau served aboard BANG while I was there but only for 5 months while waiting to go to Nuke School. Don't recall much about him as I don't think he even mess cooked.

George LeBlanc, MachinistMate (66-68) sends along this remembrance:

It is with deep regret that I write to inform you that our Shipmate, **Raymond J Comeau**, who served on Bang, to the best of my knowledge, in 1957. It was my pleasure to be a friend of Raymond since I was 18 years old. We were in the Salem, MA Naval Reserve Center #111 together, and lately have been Shipmates in USSVI, Marblehead Base, since its establishment. We will all miss him as he was always the life of the party. Enclosed is a copy of the obituary listed in the Lynn Item. Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year to all the Bang Gangers out there.

Eric Ericson and Ray's widow, Coreen both sent me a copy of the obituary with photo.



Raymond J. Comeau, age 71 of Saugus, MA, died Friday morning, December 18th at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. He was the beloved husband of Coreen "Queenie" (Dodge) Comeau.

Born in Lynn, he was a resident of Saugus for the past 42 years. He retired as a teacher in the Waltham

Public Schools and was a veteran of the U. S. Navy, serving from 1956-1961. Mr. Comeau then served in the reserves for the next 15 years retiring as a Warrant Officer.

He was a gradated of Swampscott High School (Class of 1956) and then Fitchburg State College. He also was a member of Gerry club, Subvets, Northeast Steamers and Lynn Yacht Club.

Ray coached girls varsity soccer at Waltham and Saugus High in the 1980's also coached boys lacrosse at Waltham High and started the boys lacrosse program at Salem High.

Besides his wife he leaves one daughter, Jane E. Moskevitz and her husband Paul of Georgetown; one son, Raymond J. Comeau, Jr. of Saugus; four grandchildren, Bethany, Paul Jr., Kassidy, Raymond J. III; one brother, J. Robert Comeau and his wife Linda of Danvers; one sister in-law, Susan Rodgers of Saugus and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services were held at the Bisbee-Porcella Funeral Home on Wednesday, December 23rd.

In Lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to New England Center for Homeless Veterans, 17 Court St., Boston, MA 02108.

Jillian St. Charles, the daughter-in-law of **Johnny Boggess** wrote to notify us of his untimely death

and request some info about him from all who knew him. I know your out there because I just published photos of you with Johnny.

Help Johnny's family in trying to know more about the father they had for such a short period of time. You know more about Johnny than they do so open up and tell them about their father.

You can either e-mail or snail mail them at the following addresses:

Jillian St. Charles

810 Vista Oaks Lane

Knoxville, TN 37919

DamonBoggess@gmail.com



I am Jillian St. Charles and my husband, Damon, was the eldest son of **Johnny Boggess**.

I am sad to say he was killed by a drunk driver more than 20 years ago while he was still in his forties. After the service he went on to marry and have four kids -- all very young at the time of his death and they continue to miss him terribly. It's one of my great regrets that I never got to meet him.

If you have any memories you could share, even small things, Damon and I would love to hear them. Do you remember anything in particular about him? I think his kids would love to hear what he was like as a sailor.

I look forward to hearing even the smallest anecdotes or details about John. I'm told Damon's dad always spoke so fondly of his tours on Bang and the men he served with.

*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.*



Richard Barringer, a SONARman (52-55) sends the following update on his heart problems:

One week out of the hospital and feeling really good. For those that weren't aware of what happened.....It all started when they found blockage in two arteries to the heart. One was 99.9% blockage and the other was 80% blocked. Cleaned out the worst one and put in a drug eluting stent on Dec. 23.

I was scheduled for the second stent on Feb 9, but I came back to the VA on Jan 26 with bad chest pains. They did surgery on Jan 27 and put in the other stent. That night I had another minor attack so the next day they went in again for a look. All appeared fine and I went home on the 31st.

Went back to the VA on Feb 9. Heart, lungs, BP, weight, and oxygen all good. Don't have to go back now till April or May. Saw both Primary Care & Cardiologist.....both are pleased with my progress.

I can't say enough for the care I got at the Reno VA Hospital. They were amazing and the food was exceptional. I highly recommend the VA to everyone.

When is Summer going to get here.??? I'm sick of the cold weather and snow.

Kurt Cadenhead, son of **Al Cadenhead** sends us the following good news:

I'm sorry about my Dad not being in touch. I feel like you and the rest of the Bang Gang are an extended family to us. I am so amazed at the comradery that you all share with each other.

Dad is a tough guy and he doesn't let on when something is wrong with him. He had a problem with blood clots in his legs and they migrated up into his lungs. He lost a lot of weight and his liver was shutting down before even I noticed that something was wrong. I finally made him go to the hospital where they admitted him right away. He was in the hospital for 3 weeks. The good news is he has had just about every test known to man and he is 100% cancer free and his liver is now fine. He is taking meds to handle the clots and now that he isn't living alone he is eating good home cooked meals again. He is now living in Newport, NH with my brother and his wife who is a nurse so he is getting great care. He also gets to hang around with his grandson who is a vet of Afghanistan 82nd Airborne (yes we are very proud of him).

Now that he is feeling better we are making plans for the New London reunion and are looking forward to seeing all the Gang again.

I can't tell you how much our local VFW has helped my Dad and how much the Bang Gang means to us. That is a friendship only veterans know because it is forged in blood, honor, and service to our great country.

ED: - Al's new address and phone are on Page 2.

**"If It Weren't For The United States Military,
There Would Be NO United States of America."
"Home of The Free, Because of the Brave."**

George LeBlanc sent us the following photo of he and **Eric Ericson** being sworn in at the ceremony held in February at the Marblehead Base of USSVI meeting. Congratulations Shipmates!!!



LeBlanc (treasurer, far left) and **Eric Ericson** (Vice Commander, second from right)

For those of you that have Internet access, our Web Master, **Bill Fenton** continues to improve our web site www.ussbang.com with new additions and enhancements.

Bill relieved Jim Fricke of his duties and immediately picked up on the site features that Jim had started.

Since then he has enhanced those features and added new ones that make our site one of the best submarine sites on-line. We are very fortunate to have Bill as an active member of the Gang.

His latest addition is a film clip of BANG underway down the Thames for the last time under the US Flag with CDR Dave Harriss in command. Two days later she was turned over to Spain.

The film was shot by Cathy Gibson, wife of BANG's last COB, **Leo Gibson**. Thanks go to CS **John Monroe** who added the music and narrates the film.

Bill says, "I'm sure it will make you feel as proud as it did me."

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



Henry Kozloski, a Firecontrol Tech (54-57), "Teresa hurt her back in July of last year and between doctor's visits and treatment we thought we would still be able to attend the reunion but as we got close to sending in our reservations the treatment did not work and she had to have an operation. She has since had the operation and ever thing is fine. So we will attend this years reunion."Henry, happy to hear that Teresa's operation was successful and looking forward to seeing the both of you again.

Neal Ipema, a MachinistMate (65-67), "Thank you for the recent surprise package which included three "Bang Gang Newsletters". I enjoyed reading them all cover to cover. I would most certainly want to be on the mailing list for future copies and will be happy to kick in to the slush fund to cover expenses. Receiving the "out of the blue" phone calls from **Jack O'Connor** and **Harry Ross** was also a most pleasant surprise.

I am looking forward to hearing more about some of the most memorable and maybe not so memorable Bang shipmates i.e. **James Herward**, **Jack O'Connor**, **Billy Cromie**, **Merle Meyer**- just to name a few.

Our Engineering Officer, **Mike Gothie** apparently learned his "people skills" from men like **Alexander Sinclair** because he was one of the most approachable officers I encountered anywhere.

Looking forward to hearing from you."....*Neal, now that we have your attention with Newsletters and phone calls, the next step is Reunions. You can meet the shipmates you mentioned face to face at our Reunions. Why not attend one???*

.....
Clarence O. (Joe) Taff, CO (69-71), "I am so delighted and grateful for your package of Bang Gang Newsletters and Welcome Aboard message. The Newsletter contents brought back many pleasant memories and filled in so many gaps that I had been missing.

Thanks are also in order to our president, Bill Fenton, for his skill in tracking me down during his search for past crew members not yet on the mailing list. Bill was my Engineer Officer during my command tour of BANG and this effort was characteristic of his superb performance throughout our time as shipmates.

Keep up the outstanding work and keep all the wonderful memories alive in your impressive Bang Gang Newsletter. Well Done!"....*Joe, we think that all BANG CO's are special and therefore it is our pleasure to be able to add you to our mailing list and have you as one of the "Gang".*

.....
Fred Gers, a GunnersMate (45, WP6), "I have been wanting to write about my time on BANG but first, I will start with my enlisting in the Navy—I joined the Navy, January 1943.

I went thru boot camp at Bainbridge, MD and then on to Gunnery School. They quit giving rates—instead you became a seaman first class. I passed a fleet exam and entered a prep school for the Academy. I had a high school sweetheart. We had broke up but when I was home on a weekend liberty my mother got us back together and we were married November 7, 1943. After that, I was

dismissed from the prep school and assigned to the USS Otter DE210 at Charleston, SC. I was carried off the Otter with rheumatism and could not walk. After two months in the hospital and another month in one in CA, I was sent to a receiving ship in San Diego. From there to COMSUBPAC SW Pacific at Pearl Harbor. I was sent to various schools and then to Guam where I met BANG.

I reported to the XO officer on BANG and after a short interview he said, "*Gers, you never went to Sub School or volunteered. Do you want to come aboard?*" And so I joined a very elite group in March 1945 that I was, and still am, very proud of.

I made the sixth War Patrol on BANG. I had the 20 and the 40 to maintain. I would go topside and clean them, when we ran the surface at night to charge batteries. In June 1945 after I qualified thru the Boat, I made GM 3rd class. I then rode BANG back to the States to Portsmouth Navy Yard where she was overhauled and two 5 inch 25s were mounted fore and aft. I was discharged in November.

I was recalled in January 1951—I had forgotten I was still in the inactive reserve. I was assigned to USS Medregal (SS480) and applied for a hardship discharge which I got after serving only four months. I had opened up a service station in 1949 and while I was on the Medregal in warm and sunny Key West, my wife was in PA minding the store freezing her butt off pumping gas and washing windshields. I will be 87 in March of this year and I lost my lovely wife this past November after 66 years of marriage. I look forward to receiving the Newsletter. The first thing I do is check to see who went on Eternal Patrol that I knew. I remember when I see their names but my memory as well as other things has deteriorated."....*Thanks, Fred for the interesting Bio. We are sorry to hear that Honey has passed away and offer you our deepest condolences. If you are still able to get around, we would be happy to see you at our Reunion this year. It's close by in New London. Hope you can make it.*

.....
Crisogono Gurion, a StewardsMate (58-59), "This old shipmate of yours just turned 75 years young last November and I'm having a very sad and painful disease of the joints called Rheumatoid Arthritis. That is the reason I have not written you sooner because my fingers hurt. I have been receiving the Bang Gang Newsletter and enjoy reading them.

From time to time I go to the VA hospital to see if they can still overhaul this worn out body so I will be able to walk normal again. So far, I still can walk with a cane like "Bat Masterson".

You know time cannot erase the wonderful and good memories that I experienced on board the old SS385. Remember, you cooked the food and I

served it. That was a easy job. I was not satisfied with that kind of work but I was happy then.

When I swapped duty to go to Harder SS568 I was able to change my rate to Engineman. I left Harder an EN3(ss) and went to Hawaii on board Wahoo SS565—then to Tang SS563. That was during the Cuban Crisis. Next I went to Grayback LPSS574 where I made Chief. My next duty was Shipyard Repair Facility and then to the 7th Fleet Flagship, Blue Ridge LCC19. I wound up on some “Nuke” Boats before retiring from the Navy as an E-8, MMCS(ss). It was a long 30 years.

This worn out body was still strong so I went to work for the US Dept of Transportation as a mechanic. I worked another 16 years and 8 months with them before retiring fully in 2004. The bad part is I’m now back where I started—washing dishes, because my wife and I are the only two left in our house.

I married a very beautiful girl who was dedicated to home and family and we raised 5 kids with the incessant blessings of GOD to guide us.

The eldest (girl) is a Chief Accountant for a big corporation. Second (boy) is an Account Executive in sales department with AT&T. Third (boy) is a Special Agent (GS-14) with the US Government. Fourth (girl) is Vice President of a Bank of America branch. And youngest (boy) served in US Army and is now a supervisor at the Post Office.

So far all the hard work and study paid off and It looks like my mission in this life has been accomplished. With GOD nothing is impossible.

GOD bless all my BANG shipmates!" ... *Cris, sounds like you lived the “American Dream” - able to choose your job, marry a beautiful girl, raise a family, and watch them grow up and become successful and, then retire. The only mistake that I think you made was becoming an Engineman on Harder. I’m sure you know the rhyme—*

”Harder, Darter, Trigger, Trout. Always in, never out! I pray that the VA therapy will help get rid of your arthritic pain so you can enjoy the rest of your life.



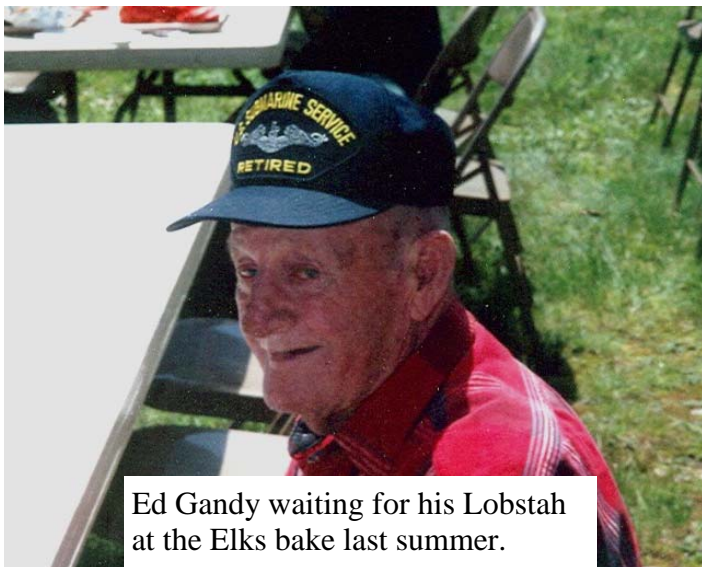
Ernie Raspe



Ben LaPorte



Charlie Kimball



Ed Gandy waiting for his Lobstah at the Elks bake last summer.

REUNION 2009



June Kracker

Betty Gunny



Bill & Joan Fenton



Bette & Robert Bridle



Charlie & Marge Heater

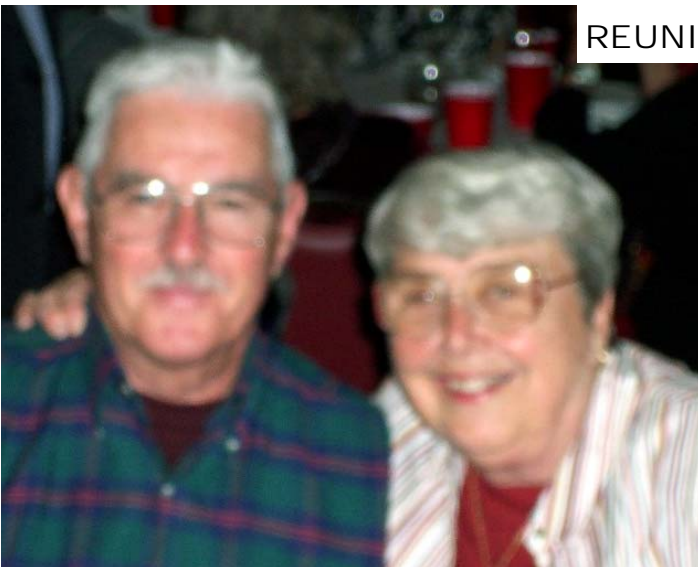


Alida & Lee Sivil

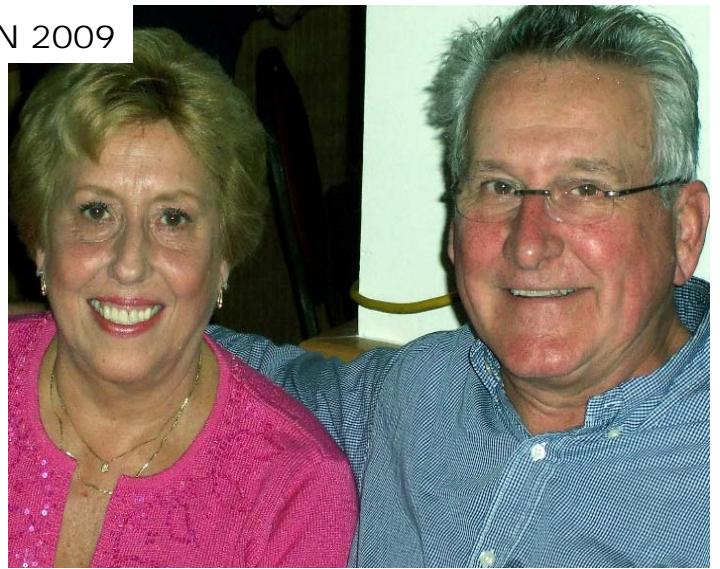


Charles & Patricia Archer

REUNION 2009



Deane & Connie Hadfield



Diane & John O'Connor



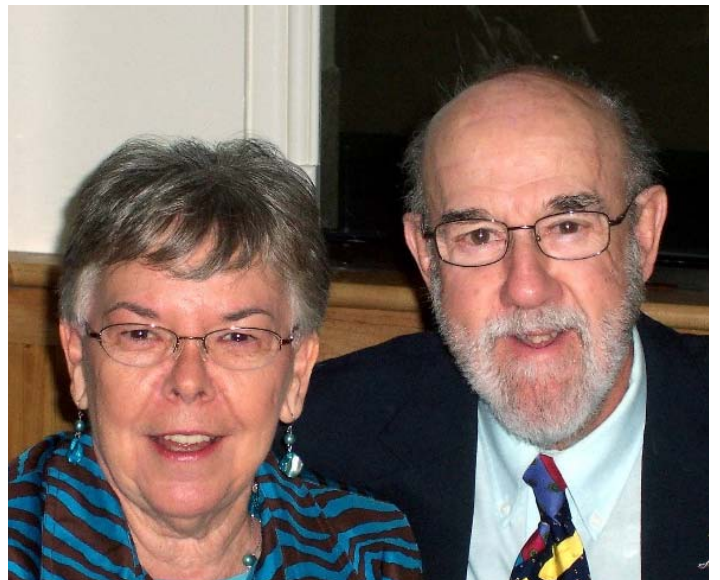
Darlene & John Kraft



Elizabeth & Dick Gahan



Dale & Rosie Larson

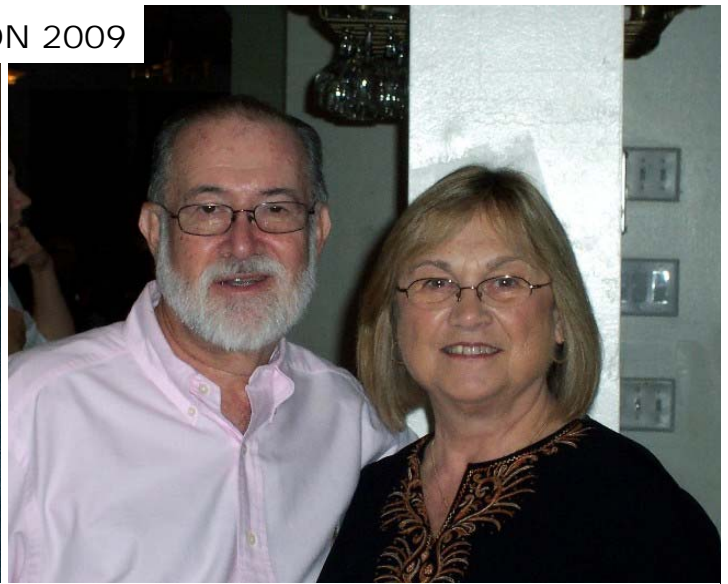


Elaine & Wayne Thalasinis

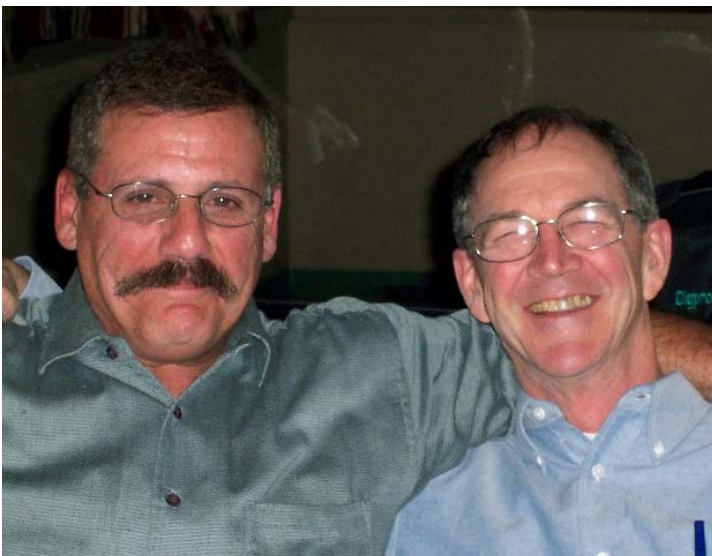
REUNION 2009



Terri Regish & Bill Mancuso



Harry & JoAnn Ross



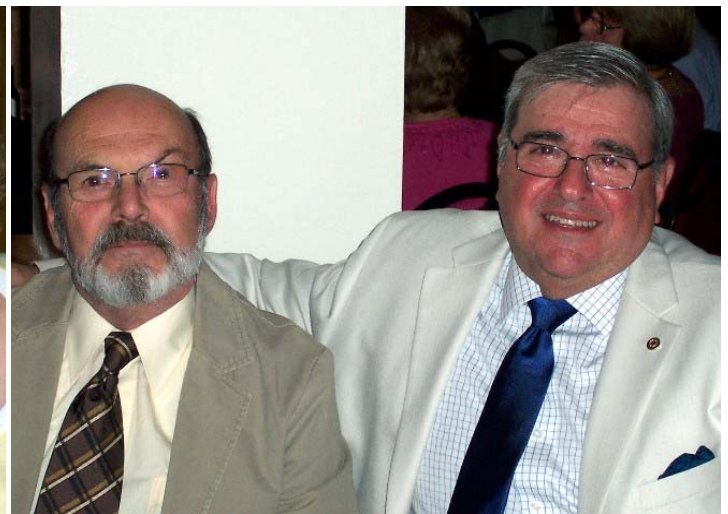
Ike Cohen & Hal Wilkins



Barbera Mancuso & John & Terri Regish



Gene & Ronnie Lockwood

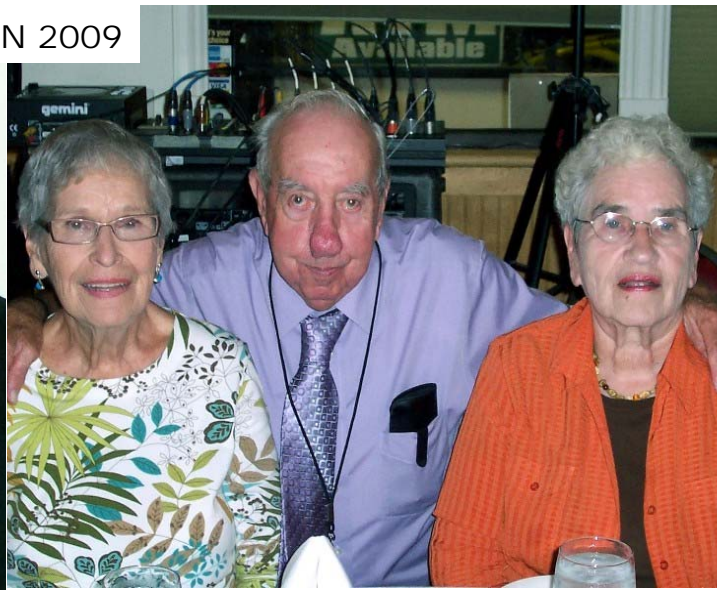


James Herwood & Lenny Sciuto

REUNION 2009



Jane & Ed DeLong



Nancy & Tom Stewart & Elaine



Jim & Yolanda Klein



Kathy & Lamarr Seader

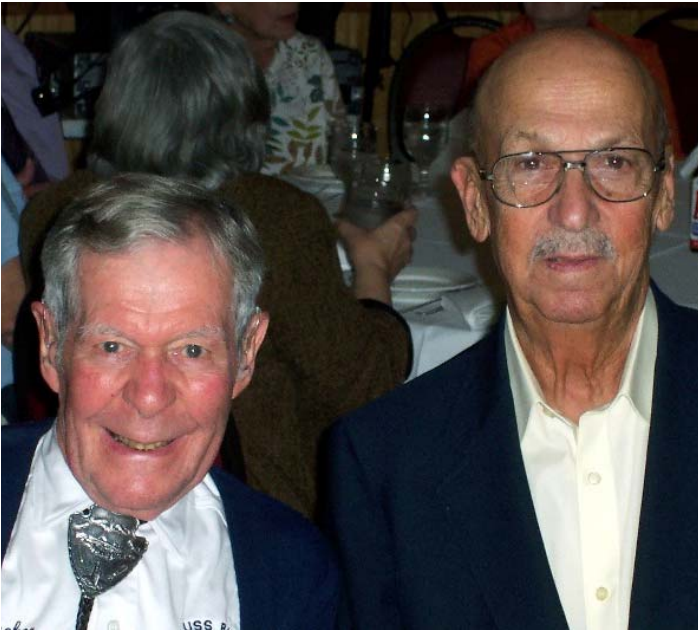


JoAnn & Marv Christenson



Sidney & Stu Savage

REUNION 2009



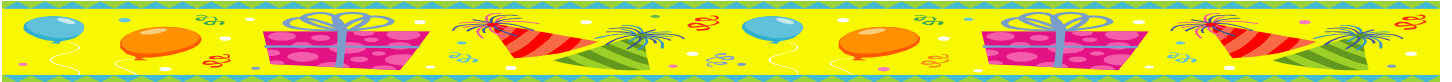
Ed Kracker

Bob Gunny



Bob White

Mildred Harper

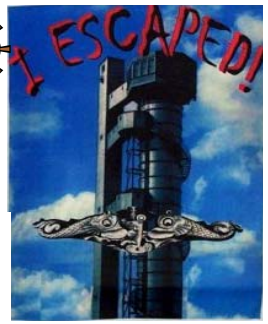


John Caldwell, Ships Cook (43-44, WP1), celebrated his 90th birthday on 25 Dec 2009. A party was held in his honor Monday 28 Dec 2009 with over 50 family and friends in attendance.

Pops always wears either his Retired US Navy hat or his USS Bang hat. I sometimes

believe he is most proud of his service on the Bang during WWII.





REUNION UPDATE 2010



NEW LONDON, CT



Claire and I are excited about bringing this year's reunion back to the New London/Groton area and we expect a large group of shipmates in attendance. Our headquarters will be the Radisson Hotel in New London (radisson.com/newlondonct). It is a **100% non-smoking facility** and is located just blocks from New London's train station, ferries, and BANK ST so, you'll have a chance to visit your old haunts (if they are still there).

The hotel has blocked off 60 rooms for us until 30 days before the reunion. After that time all unreserved rooms will be released to the public so call in your reservations early. The price for a double is \$89 plus tax and this rate is good for 3 days before and after the reunion for those who wish to extend their stay. We couldn't match the room price Gene Lockwood got for Virginia Beach, but we think you will get your money's worth. Standard amenities, such as coffee makers, hair dryers, irons/ironing boards and complimentary high-speed wireless Internet access and weekday newspapers are included with all rooms. A heated indoor pool and a workout room is also available to all guests.

At the time of check-in, you may purchase coupons for a full breakfast buffet for two for \$15. The regular price is \$12.95 per person. If you do not want to purchase the full breakfast buffet, you can still order from the menu.

We have three bus trips planned for your enjoyment.

On **Tuesday, Sept 28th** we will leave the hotel at 9:30 and travel to Stoney Creek. Once there, we will transfer to a school bus shuttle that will take us to the dock where we board the boat for a 45 minute cruise around the Thimble Islands in Long Island Sound (thimbleislands.com). Interesting stories about the buildings and residents living there will be narrated during the tour. Then, returning to our bus, we will motor to Griswold Inn (Griswoldinn.com) in the picturesque town of Essex for lunch and a little site-seeing before returning to New London at 2:30.

Wednesday, Sept 29 we will leave the hotel at 9:45 (subject to change) to tour the Sub Base in the morning, and after lunch at the Base galley there will be free time to tour the Nautilus Museum before returning.

Wednesday evening our bus to Foxwoods Casino will leave at 5:00 pm. The \$25 cost includes a \$15 coupon for Keno bets and a \$10 food coupon that can be used at any restaurant or buffet. The bus departs Foxwoods at 10:30 pm.

If enough people show interest, we are thinking about reserving the Radisson van(s) for a possible trip to Mystic Village, Aquarium or Seaport after the business meeting on **Thursday**. The cost would be \$10 round trip. If interested, please check the box on your Registration Form.

The banquet **Thursday evening** will feature your choice of: **chicken** stuffed with cranberries, apples & gorgonzola cheese; Stuffed **filet of sole** with a light champagne sauce; or roasted top round of **beef**. All entrees are served with a mixed green salad, vegetable, roasted red potatoes, dessert, and coffee/tea. Entertainment will also be provided.

For those that are flying, the closest commercial airfield is Green Airport in Providence, RI. Since this is over an hour's drive away, we are looking into the possibility of using the Radisson van for pick-up and return. The cost would be cheaper than hiring a taxi or renting a car. If you would be interested in this service please indicate so on the Registration Form and fill in your flight information.

If we can get several couples arriving and departing within a reasonable time frame, we will make the arrangements with the Hotel otherwise, we will make some other kind of arrangement for you.

As an alternative to flying, you may want to consider traveling by rail. Our Hotel is only a couple of blocks from the railroad station and Amtrak makes frequent stops there daily.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have pertaining to the Reunion. We want to make it as pleasurable for you as it will be for us having you as our guests.

Ralph & Claire Gates

14 Ridge Circle

Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268-1612

(860) 429-1898

claire-ralph-gates@sbcglobal.net

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

67th Anniversary Reunion

New London, CT

Monday - September 27th 2010
through

Thursday - September 30th 2010

HEADQUARTERS



Your Hosts

Ralph & Claire Gates

Radisson Hotel

35 Governor Winthrop Blvd

New London, CT 06320

\$89/night Reservations 1-(866) 856-9057

Website—radisson.com/newlondonct



MONDAY **SEPTEMBER 27th** - Check In - Hospitality Room opens at 12:00 noon.



TUESDAY **SEPTEMBER 28th** - 9:30 a.m. - Thimble Islands Tour.



WEDNESDAY **SEPTEMBER 29th** - 9:45 a.m. - Submarine Base & Museum
5:00 p.m. - Foxwoods Casino



THURSDAY **SEPTEMBER 30th** - 9:00 a.m. - Business Meeting
5:30 p.m. - Banquet – Cash Bar – Entertainment



PLEASE NOTE!!!



CHANGES IN REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

This year we are handling Reunion registration a little differently. The Registration Form has been split in two—one form for the trips and one form for the banquet and hospitality room.

(1.) Fill out the Trip Form (TOP) for all the scheduled trips you wish to take and mail it along with your check, made payable to MYSTIC INFO CENTER, to the address on the top of the form. If you plan on taking the Sub Base Tour, you **MUST** print the full name and the last four digits of the social security number for all that are attending. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** For those attending the Thimble Islands Cruise, please remember to select your luncheon entry. Please note that the deadline for mailing all trip reservations is **AUGUST 26TH.**

You may contact Mystic Info Center at (860) 536-1641.

(2.) Complete the Banquet and Hospitality Room Form (BOTTOM) and send it to the address at its top along with your check made payable to RALPH GATES. Please remember to check off your banquet dinner entrée. Also note that the hospitality room stipend is now \$10 per PERSON as was voted on at our last Business Meeting. The deadline for the mailing of this form is **AUGUST 26TH.**

(3.) Call the Hotel direct to book your room. One night's deposit holds your reservation. There will be no guarantee of available rooms after **AUGUST 26TH** so make your reservations before then. Remember the dates. They will come up fast.

Mail To: Mystic Info Center—Olde Mistick Village—Mystic, CT 06355 by **AUGUST 26TH**

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

FULL NAME: _____ SS#(last 4 digits)

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE NO: (____) ____ - ____

CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

SPOUSE / GUEST FULL NAME: _____ SS#

GUEST FULL NAME: _____ SS#

GUEST FULL NAME: _____ SS#

GUEST FULL NAME: _____ SS#

GUEST FULL NAME: _____ SS#

NUMBER TAKING THIMBLE ISLAND CRUISE: _____ @ \$63.00 per person. = _____

Please specify luncheon choice(s): _____ - Pork Loin or _____ - Baked Cod

NUMBER TAKING SUB BASE TOUR: _____ @ \$29.00 per person. = _____

NUMBER TAKING FOXWOODS TRIP: _____ @ \$25.00 per person. = _____

Make check payable to Mystic Info Center TOTAL _____



Mail To: Ralph Gates—14 Ridge Circle—Storrs Mansfield, CT 06268-1612 by **AUGUST 26TH**

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: _____

YES, I/WE ARE INTERESTED IN THE AIRPORT SHUTTLE.

FLIGHT ARRIVAL TIME: ___:___ FLIGHT # _____ AIRLINES _____

YES, I/WE ARE INTERESTED IN THE SHUTTLE TO MYSTIC.

NUMBER ATTENDING BANQUET:..... @ \$45.00 per person. = _____

Please specify entrée choice(s) (HOW MANY?): _____ - Chicken _____ - Beef _____ - Fish

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

Make check payable to Ralph Gates TOTAL _____

PHIL BEALS, EDITOR
BANG GANG NEWSLETTER
2127 OAHU DRIVE
HOLIDAY, FL 34691-3625



FIRST – CLASS MAIL
FORWARDING SERVICE
REQUESTED



PRAISE OUR MILITARY! - AND PRAY FOR THEM TOO.

