



1943



1972



# THE BANG GANG NEWSLETTER

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

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SUMMER/FALL 2013

[WWW.USSBANG.COM](http://WWW.USSBANG.COM)

ISSUE-69

## FAREWELL BILLY BANG!





# 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.



**Daniel E. Vyskocil, TM (60-62)**  
**Charley Tom Odom, CMoMM (46-47)**  
**William N. Cromie, EM (64-71)**  
**William J. McFadden Sr, FN (53-55)**



**SHIPMATES, REST YOUR OARS!**

**The following shipmates are new (found) additions to our roster. Your committee is thankful for all who helped in locating them and we will continue our search until we have attempted to locate everyone.**

LASTNAME	FIRSTNAME	ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIPCODE	PHONE	Y-O-B
Moses	John E	7 Kenneth Rd	South Portland	ME	04106-3403	(978) 317-2144	70-71
Worsham	Clarence D	7443 W Blackwater Rd	Windsor	VA	23487-4954	(757) 242-6747	70-72

**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
Heg	James E	3333 148th St SW Apt 419	Lynnwood	WA	98087-4835		44-46
Knubel	John A	1365 Eliot Rd	Franklin	TN	37064-4882	(301) 502-1445	62-63
Meaie	Larry L	1630 Main St Apt 65	Coventry	CT	06238-1620		70-72



## THANK YOU!

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



**Rob Bridle**  
**Al Cadenhead**  
**Ike Cohen**  
**Jeannie Cromie**  
**Charlie Kimball**

**Mona Knight**  
**Henry Kozloski**  
**Tom Maguire**  
**Bill Mancuso**  
**Jim Maney**

**Barbara McNeil**  
**Larry Meaie**  
**Jack O'Connor**  
**Bill Powell**  
**Len Sciuto**



### THE INTERNET CONNECTION CHANGES SINCE LAST PUBLICATION

**Larry Meaie** ..... larrymeaie@gmail.com  
**John Moses** ..... john.cindymoses@yahoo.com  
**Clarence Worsham** .. starboardgreen@msn.com







**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!**

The email I received from our **Chaplain, Len Sciuto**, announcing **Billy Cromie's** demise was expected but still, saddening. Billy's hospital stay was way too long this time and the reports I received were not good enough to expect another "miracle".



My sadness was eased somewhat by the chance to see him one last time at his service which was well attended by the "Gang". Besides Dot and myself, **Len, Rob and Bette Bridle**, and **Ike Cohen** were in attendance. Len had a very nice floral stand delivered to the funeral home and, while there, we were able to perform a "Tolling of the Bell"

ceremony for him before going to graveside. I hope he liked it. Billy had the second longest tenure of a BANG shipmate, 7/64 to 10/71 yet I wasn't aboard with him. I got to know him by attending our Reunions and I am glad that Len Sciuto took the time in Pensacola to get Billy on tape.

**William N. (Billy Bang) Cromie III**, 77, a resident of Bechtelsville, PA and formerly of Schuylerville, NY died Thursday, August 15, 2013 at Pottstown Memorial Hospital in Pottstown, PA. Born May 30, 1936 in Victory Mills, NY he was the son of the late William N. and Eva Seney Cromie Jr.



He was a graduate of Schuylerville Central School and worked for the NY State Canal System

before entering the US Navy Submarine Service in 1956. He served during the Cold War era retiring as a Chief Petty Officer in 1976. He was a member of a specially selected crew on the USS Grayback armed with the Regulus II missile. He also served on the

USS Bass, USS Lizardfish, and his last service was as chief electrician on the USS Bang where he gained the nickname "Billy Bang".

After leaving the Navy, William continued the family tradition as a Freemason of the Scottish Rite. He applied his skill as an electrician in building part of the nation's modern submarine fleet at General Dynamics, Electric Boat Division in Groton, CT. retiring in 1994.

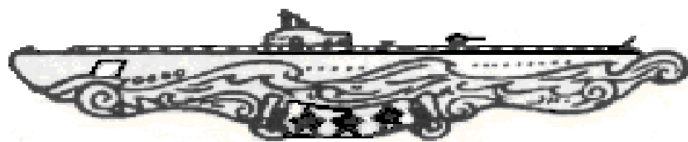
In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his sister Sharon Cromie Durkin. He is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Jean Kline Cromie of Bechtelsville, PA; two sisters, Lois Miner of Schuylerville, NY and Dawn (Richard) Anderson of South Glens Falls, NY; brother-in-law Phillip Durkin; step son, Fernando Fonseca III of West Chester, PA, step daughters Jean Ross of Levitown, PA, Judy Ley of Deptford, NJ, and June Kramer of Pocono Lake, PA. A graveside service with military honors was held at 12pm Monday August 19, 2013 in Prospect Hill Cemetery, Schuylerville, NY with Rev. Martin Fisher officiating.

Anyone wishing to send condolences to Jean may do so at:

**449 Weinstein Rd  
Bechtelsville, PA 19505-9028**



**Charley Tom Odom**, CMM (46-47), pictured here celebrating his 100 birthday on April 8th, recently passed away on August 23rd. Notification of Charley's demise was sent to me by his USSVI Base Commander. Charley was the second oldest member of the SubVets organization.



**Daniel Vyskocil**, Torpedoman (60-62) died January 26, 2013. The following letter was received from his widow, Normajean.

*This is to inform you that my husband for 52 years, Daniel Vyskocil, passed away January 26, 2013. He was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer in July 2012.*

*He was born on May 12, 1942 and served aboard USS Bang as a Torpedoman 3rd class from August 30, 1960 to August 25, 1962. He was in active duty reserve until honorably discharged on June 29, 1965.*

*He is very much missed by his family and friends.*

Anyone wishing to send condolences to Normajean may do so at:

**1394 Texas Dr  
Xenia, OH 45385-4852**

**Bill McFadden** served aboard Bang as a Fireman from 53-55. His obit was sent to us by **Ken Henry** of USSVI.



**McFADDEN, William J. Sr. "Wild Bill"** - Ironworkers Local 401, drug-up his job here on earth, June 26th, 2013. Though Bill retired after 33 years with the Ironworkers, he continued to keep active as "Mr. Bill" the Middle Township School District bus driver for many years. Born July 10th 1932, in southwest Philly,

Graduated St Thomas More, 1950, U.S. Navy four years during the Korean conflict, aboard LST 601 and submarine service aboard the USS Bang 385. Member of VFW post 5343, St. Raymond's Parish and the DAV post Del Haven. Surviving are; his loving wife Eleanor, sons William Jr. (Kathleen), James (Mary), Phillip (Kathleen); daughter Margaret (Henry). As well as ten Grandchildren and six Great Grandchildren. Preceded in death by Sons Mark and Joseph and Grandson Kevin.

Interment will be in Cape May County Veterans Cemetery, Cape May Court House.

Condolences may be sent to:

**295 S Route 47 Trlr 29  
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210-2510**



*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.*



**Henry Kozloski**, a Firecontrol Tech (54-57) wrote to let us know that he was the Parade Marshal at the Agawam Memorial Day Parade this year and what an honor it was to represent the past and present veterans of today.

While he wasn't marching in parades, Henry was busy this

past year making BANG models. He completed 14 of them before the Reunion and sold them all there for \$35.00 each. He then proceeded to donate \$20.00 for each one sold to our Slush Fund. THANK YOU HENRY!!!



Henry also stated that he would make more should the need arise. The models are about 15 to 18 inches long and have either a step sail or North Atlantic sail. A display stand is included.

You can contact Henry to get more information about

them and to place an order at:

**(413) 786-6934**

**vedany@comcast.net**







## SICK BAY



The following shipmates and wives are currently in need of our well wishes and prayers.

**Marge Heater** - Dementia, - Nothing new to report.

**Barbara Sawyer** - Multiple Myeloma (Cancer)

**Len Sciuto** - Back Surgery / Tumor Removal, The bones in the spinal column have still not fused together. After further investigation, the Neurosurgeon found that the rod assembly support has separated so now another operation is scheduled to make the repairs. No wonder Len is so frustrated.

The writings and material within this Newsletter are the sole responsibility of its Editor and in no way reflect the opinion of its intended readers, the Bang Gang. ....*Phil Beals, editor*



**Tom Maguire**, a Seaman (57-58), "I'm enclosing a check for the Slush Fund. Keep up the great work! Hope to make another Reunion. Last one was in San Diego."....*Thanks, Tom, for contributing to our Slush Fund. How about Cleveland next year???*

**Larry Meaie**, a StoreKeeper (70-72), "Just a short note and small donation to help cover some of the postage expenses. Please change my mailing address and add my Email address though I still would like to continue to receive the Newsletter hardcopy as it gets read and passed on to numerous people who enjoy reading it as much as I do."... *Thanks, Larry, for updating your address and helping out with the postage fees. Would any of these people you pass the Newsletter on to be BANG Shipmates? If so, send me their address and I will send them their own copy.*

**Benito Chereguini**, CO Cosme Garcia (72-74), "I would be truly happy to have the possibility to rejoin with the submarine people once again but unfortunately will not be possible; sorry. From Spain, "a long way to New London..."

I wish to US submarine people the best possible diving hours...

The USS Bang or S-34 "Cosme Garcia" is to say, the best diesel submarine forever..., always will remain in my heart and always will remember my old friend captain Harriss and his crew. Saludos y abrazos "... *Benito, thank you for writing. It is always good to hear from our Cosme Garcia friends. We wish you well and remember you and crew are always welcome if you ever come to this side of the "pond".*

**Clarence Worsham**, a SonarTech (70-72), "I served on the Bang from 1970 to 1972 and was involved in a collision drill accident in 1971. I've been unable to retrieve my medical/dental records from the VA after requesting for five years. I'm hoping there are other shipmates who were onboard at the time who might recall the incident, but I lack contact information. Do you have any way that I might get my appeal to shipmates? Any assistance or advice will be appreciated."... *Clarence, hopefully shipmates reading your request will recall the accident and contact you.*

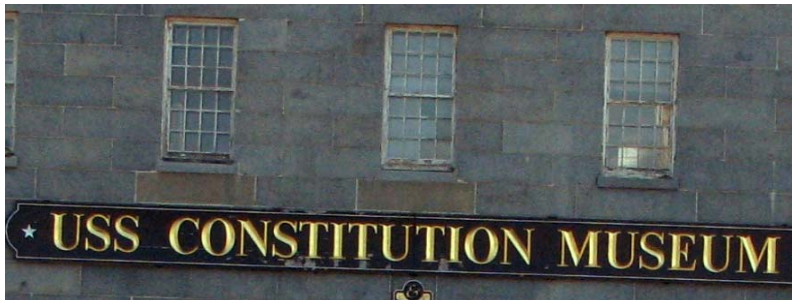
**7443 W Blackwater Rd**  
**Windsor, VA 23487-4954**  
**(757) 242-6747**  
**starboardgreen@msn.com**



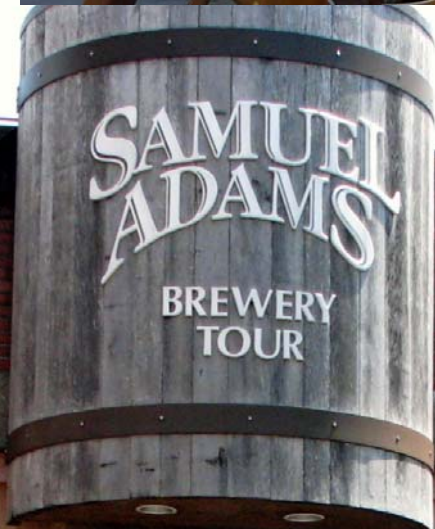
## SOME SHIPS

Are designed to sink  
Others require assistance





I SEE CLEVELAND, COLUMBUS....



John F. Kennedy

PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM





**40's GANG**  
**Ed Kracker & Al Cadenhead**



**Diane O'Connor, Yolanda Klein, Jennifer Wilson, Claudia Steinmetz**







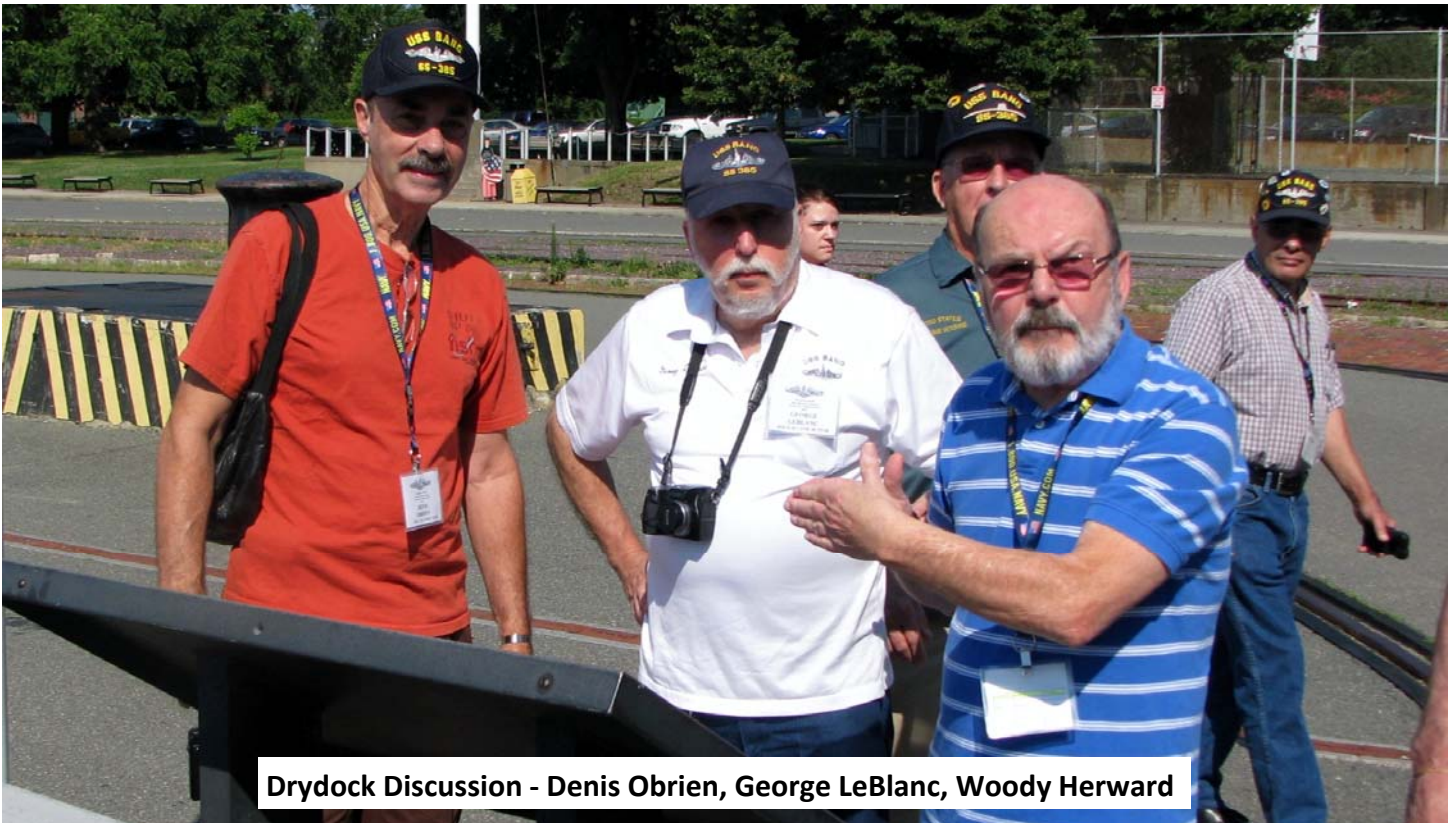


60's GANG



Waiting For The Chow.... John, Barbera, Bill, Chris, Alice

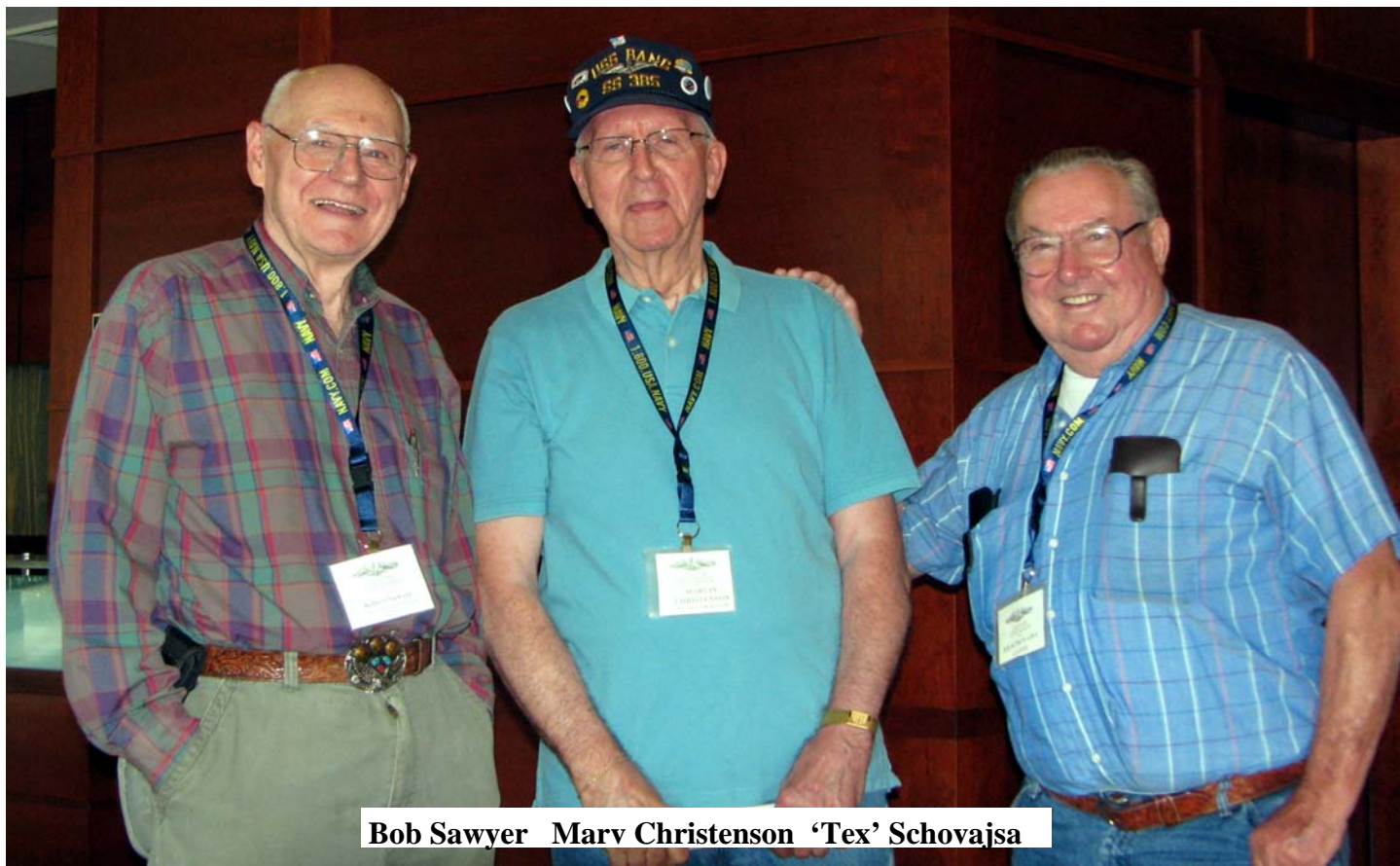




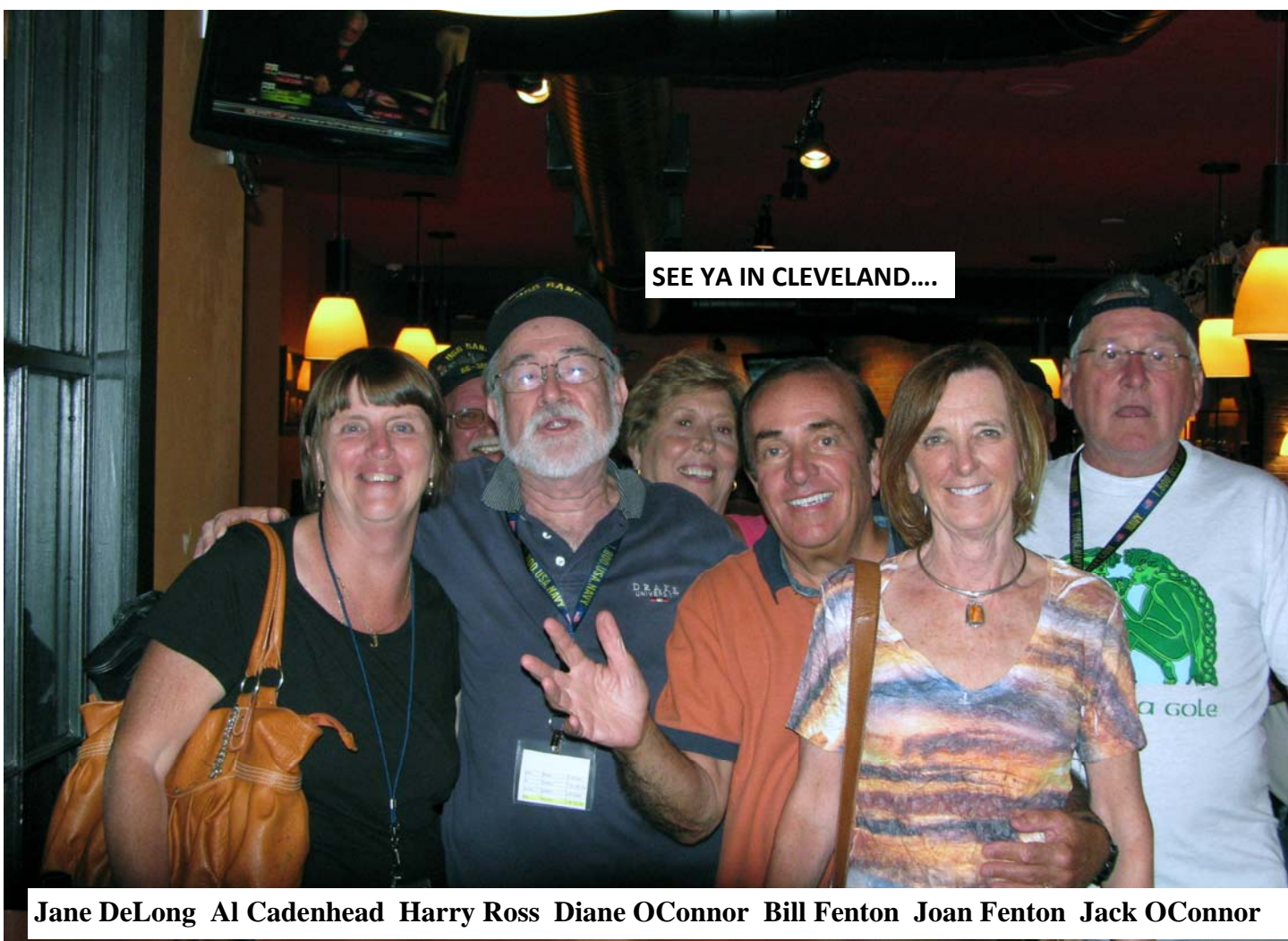








**Bob Sawyer Marv Christenson 'Tex' Schovajsa**



**SEE YA IN CLEVELAND....**

**Jane DeLong Al Cadenhead Harry Ross Diane OConnor Bill Fenton Joan Fenton Jack OConnor**



## USS BANG (SS385) MEMORIAL SITES

"Keeping The Memory Alive"

**Albacore Park - Portsmouth, NH** - Tree and Engraved Ground Marker

**Battleship Park - Mobile, AL** - Engraved Walkway Brick

**Mathis Plaza Waterfront Park - S. Toms River, NJ** - Engraved Walkway Brick

**Deterrent Park - Silverdale, WA** - Engraved Walkway Brick

**Veterans Memorial Park - Pensacola, FL** - Submarine Lifeguard League Memorial Stone

**Idaho Science Center - Arco, ID** - Engraved Bronze Plaque @ Hawkbill Memorial

**Veterans Freedom Memorial - Tampa, FL** - Engraved Walkway Brick

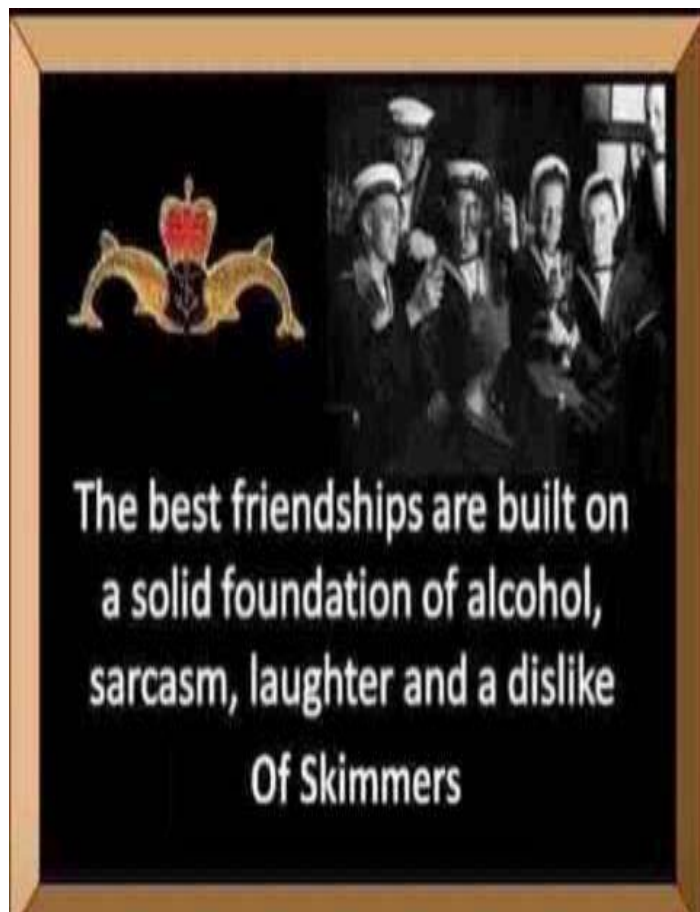
**USS Lapon Memorial Sail - Springfield, MO** - Engraved Walkway Brick

**New Mexico Vets Memorial - Albuquerque, NM** - Engraved Walkway Brick

**Nimitz WWII Museum-Fredericksburg, TX** - Brass Plaque on Memorial Courtyard Wall

**USSVI San Diego Base-CA** - Parade Float carrying model of BANG sail

**Submarine Library & Museum - Groton, CT** - Engraved Walkway Brick



# BANKRUPTCY SALE!!

I guess they went a bit too far  
with the Sequestering BS.....

All items are sold at our Reunions or shipped PBW.  
Send mail orders to **Phil Beals**.

Make your check payable to **USS BANG** and be  
sure to add a few bucks extra to cover the postage.

All proceeds from these sales are deposited directly  
into our Slush Fund.

Navy Blue Ballcap - USS BANG SS385 embroidered  
in gold with silver dolphins and solid or mesh top.

**Please state your choice.....\$8.00**

BANG Photos - 40's, 50's, 60's 11x14 black & white  
as shown on back page.

**Please state your choice.....\$3.00**

Jacket Patches - 40's, 50's, 60's 5 inch in full color  
as shown on back page.

**Please state your choice.....\$5.00**

WWII Battle Flag Patch - 3x5 inch full color....\$5.00

1" Lapel/Hat pins - depicting above jacket patches &  
battle flag. **Please state your choice.....\$5.00**





# REUNION UPDATE 2013

## MANCHESTER, NH BOSTON, MA



Hi Shipmates!

The 2013 Reunion is over but for those of us who were in attendance, fond memories will remain thanks to our gratifying hosts, **Len Sciuto** and **Rob Bridle** and their Red Hat helpers, **Bette Bridle**, **Ike Cohen**, **Paul Schramm**, and **June Kracker**. Even a week long record breaking heat wave couldn't melt down our well coordinated party. All of the events got off on schedule and the bus trips into Boston were no longer than expected despite the traffic. The Hospitality Room was always abundant with food and libation no matter what time of the day.

Kudos also go out to our elected Board Members for agreeing to extend their leadership of our organization another two years. Your efforts are mostly taken for granted but the "Gang" would not exist without them.

Next year we will meet in Cleveland, an area of the country we haven't been in a while. It should be another GOOD one. I've been to them all and I have yet to see a bad one.

### The following is the final Sailing List:

43-45 Ed & June Kracker  
44-45 Al Cadenhead,  
sons Kurt & Peter  
53-55 Charlie Kimball  
54-57 Henry & Teresa Kosloski  
55-57 Ed Schovajsa & Alice Beeny  
55-58 Bill & Barbera Mancuso  
56-58 John Regish & Terri Delaney  
56-58 Marv & JoAnn Christenson  
56-59 Phil & Dot Beals  
56-59 Stu Savage  
57-59 Joe & Marion Leonardi  
57-60 Wayne & Elaine Thalasinis  
57-60 Ben LaPorte  
57-60 Deanne & Connie Hadfield  
57-59 Jim & Lois Maney  
58-61 Bob Sawyer

58-62 Dick Gahan  
60-62 Ed & Sandy Moran  
62 Roger & Gloria Miller  
62-63 Charles & Sharon Anderson  
63-66 Len Fagotti & Marilyn Barratt  
63-66 Ed & Jane DeLong  
64-66 Jim & Yolanda Klein,  
Ernie Hallman, Jennifer Wilson  
64-67 Harry & JoAnn Ross  
64-67 John & Diane OConnor,  
Frank & Claudia Steinmetz  
64-70 Jim Herward  
65-67 Ralph & Claire Gates  
65-67 Neal & Jean Ipema  
66-68 George LeBlanc  
66-69 Charlie Dougherty  
67-68 Denis & Maureen Obrien  
67-68 Walt & Becky Cederholm  
67-70 Rob & Bette Bridle  
67-70 Tom & Rose Hill  
67-71 Bill & Joan Fenton  
67-71 Gene Lockwood,  
granddaughter Madalyn  
68-70 John & Darlene Kraft  
69-70 Bill & Kathy Powell  
69-71 Len Sciuto  
70 Ike & Michelle Cohen  
70-71 Paul Schramm  
70-71 John & Cindy Moses  
71-72 Lou Arellano  
71-72 Joe & Roxanne Juliano  
Guest Mona & Alan Knight  
Guest Bill Tebo

## REUNION 2014

Next year's Reunion will be hosted by **Domenic Iammarino (71-72)** in Cleveland, OH on September 15th thru 19th. Our headquarters will be at the Holiday Inn South Cleveland/Independence. Room rate will be \$88.00 + tax. More detailed information on this event will be published in the next Newsletter.



# **BANG GANG BUSINESS MEETING**

## **Manchester, NH / Boston, MA —18 July 2013**

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The diving alarm was sounded and President **Bill Fenton** called the meeting to order at 0830 hours and requested all present to stand and pledge their allegiance to our flag.

Bill then asked everyone present to introduce themselves by standing and giving their name and years aboard BANG. WWII shipmates and first time Reunion attendees were also recognized at this time.

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR DEPARTED SHIPMATES**

Tolling the Bell ceremony will be held at the Banquet to allow the ladies and guests to participate.

### **ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT: Bill Fenton - **PRESENT**

VICE PRES: Gene Lockwood - **PRESENT**

SECRETARY: Harry Ross - **PRESENT**

TREASURER: Ed DeLong - **PRESENT**

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Harry Ross** started to read the minutes of the previous meeting held at San Diego however a motion was made by **Phil Beals** and seconded to accept the minutes as posted in the Newsletter; **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

**Ed DeLong** gave a detailed report on our organization's income and expenses as of 1 July 2013.

Ed also reminded all shipmates should not lose sight of the concept that all of our funds are donated and have one goal, which is to continue to perpetuate the BANG GANG. A motion was made by **Charlie Dougherty** and seconded to approve the TREASURER'S REPORT; **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

(1.) **Len Sciuto** spoke about the location of the Banquet Room, the Door Prizes, guest speaker, and the web site (Military Best.com) which supplied some of the prizes.

(2.) **Bill Fenton** spoke on next year's Reunion being hosted by **Domenic Iammarino** in Cleveland, OH from Sept 15, 2014 thru Sept 18, 2014 at the Holiday Inn Cleveland South - Independence. The room rate is \$88.00 plus tax including three (3) days before and three (3) days after the reunion. Tentative itinerary is visits to USS COD (SS221), the Rock n Roll Hall of Fame, the NFL Hall of Fame, the First Ladies Museum and an early evening sit down Family Style Dinner in Little Italy. All itinerary will be finalized during the first quarter 2014.

(3.) **Gene Lockwood** will be sure the 2014 reunion is well advertised, and report back to the Board with those publications which will carry our notice.

(4.) **Lenny Sciuto** will continue conducting video interviews next year with elderly and extraordinary Bang shipmates.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

(1.) Reunion of 2015 was discussed and subsequently a tentative determination was made that **Jim Klein** would host it in the Detroit, MI area along with an antique car show he hosts as a memorial for Al Mace.

(2.) Election for Board Officers was held and a motion to keep the present Board for a new two (2) year term was made by **Charlie Dougherty** and seconded; **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

(1.) **Henry Kozloski** announced he made 14 BANG models and offered them for sale at \$35.00 each with \$20.00 of each sale going into the Slush Fund. All models were sold and **Captain Savage** was gifted one by the crew. Henry will try and have more made in time for next year's Reunion.

(2.) **Bill Fenton** read a letter from **Larry Harjehausen** to all in attendance.

(3.) The "Gang" thanked **Lenny Sciuto**, and **Rob Bridle**, along with supporting help from **Bette Bridle**, **Ike Cohen**, **June Kracker**, and **Paul Schramm**, on a great 70th BANG REUNION.

(4.) **Ed Kracker** spoke on behalf of the fine job **Phil Beals** does in keeping the BANG GANG together.

(5.) **Ike Cohen** announced he had a few books and a USS Bang challenge coin for sale. He also gave an update on the health of **Billy (Bang) Cromie**.

(6.) **Lenny Sciuto** gave an update on **John Monroe's** health. John hopes to be joining us in Cleveland next year.

(7.) **Rob Bridle** announced that deceased shipmate **Ralph Knight's** wife, **Mona** and son, **Allan** would be attending tonight's Banquet and reminded that all departed shipmates families are always welcome at our Reunions.

(8.) **Phil Beals** reminded all shipmates that haven't done so to sign our Banner.

No further business, **Bill Fenton** declared that the 2013 USS BANG BUSINESS MEETING was officially adjourned at 0912 hours and will reconvene in Cleveland, OH in 2014.



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BANG GANG NEWSLETTER  
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**FIRST – CLASS MAIL  
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REQUESTED**



**PRAISE OUR MILITARY! - AND PRAY FOR THEM TOO.**

