



1943



1972



THE BANG GANG NEWSLETTER

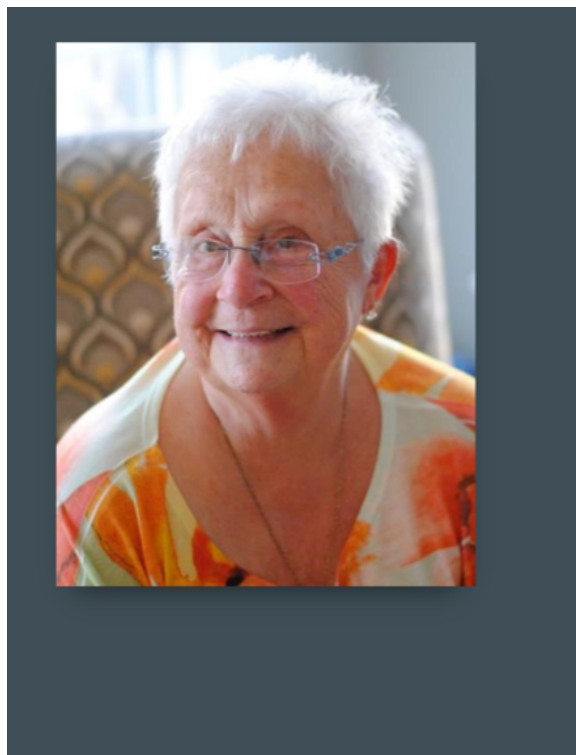
Published to perpetuate the memory of USS BANG (SS-385) and her Crew

PRESIDENT - Bill Fenton 4422 Organ Mesa Loop Las Cruces, NM 88011-8403 (575) 639-4655 ss385@ussbang.com
VICE PRES - Paul Schramm 3402 Onondaga St Kalamazoo, MI 49004-1636 (269) 345-0859 inkazoo@hotmail.com
SECRETARY - Harry Ross 2882 W 232nd St Torrance, CA 90505-2855 (310) 612-6629 harrypross@gmail.com
TREASURER - Issac (Ike) Cohen 26 Rossetti Ct. Brick NJ 08724-2426 (908) 334-0027 ikecohen415@gmail.com
EDITOR - Eric H. Ericson, III 926A Savannas Pt. Dr. Ft. Pierce, FL. 34982 (978-491-0114) eric735244@aol.com
CHAPLAIN—David Smith 318 N Catherine St. Middletown, PA 17057 (717-944-4393
WEB MASTER - Bill Fenton 4422 Organ Mesa Loop Las Cruces, NM 88011-8403 (575) 639-4655 ss385@ussbang.com
STOREKEEPER-Isaac(Ike) Cohen 26 Rossetti Ct. Brick NJ 08724-2426 (908) 334-0027 ikecohen415@gmail.com

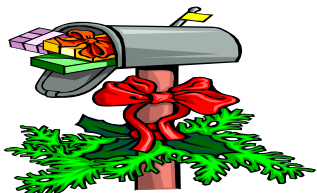
Spring/Summer 2020 WWW.USSBANG.COM WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/USSBANG ISSUE-93



ED DeLONG
APRIL 22, 2020



JUNE KRACKER
MAY 20, 2020



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,

Well, I guess everyone told me! I received some mail from the "outside world" and it was a welcome sight of mail from somebody else other than me. So I hope we continue to get more incoming from both shipmates and friends!

From **LOIS MINER**, Billy "Bang" Cromie's sister. Eric, thank you for allowing me to continue receiving the Bang Newsletter, although it makes me sad. My brother, Chief William "Billy Bang" served his last tour of duty on it and kept in touch with many of his shipmates. He was a great yokester from the time he was very young and never lost his humor. Of course, when we were little, he could be considered a pest and he was always playing what he considered jokes on me. He must have been a pest to his shipmates on long deployments. He loved all his shipmates and it was such a nice surprise when some of them came to his funeral in August 2013. A photo from his funeral appeared on the front cover, so I guess he was memorable. I miss him terribly and am still in occasional contact with Len Sciuto.

Yes Lois, Billy was memorable; everyone qualifying would be subject to Billy's humor, and would be all the better for it. Thank you for your letter, it is our privilege to send along the newsletter.

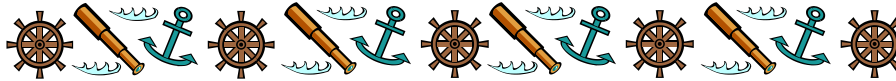
From **Kenneth R. McDermott**-Dear Eric, I served on BANG from July 1961 to December 1962-qualifying in submarines and making my final qualification walk-through while we were in Rotterdam, Holland on March 18, 1962. I've attached a copy of my original Qual card which somehow I managed to save. You can see that LT Mark Lenhart gave me my final walk through, and our skipper at the time LCDR R.C. Johnston signed off on it. Please find enclosed a check for \$50.00 for the Bang Gang Slush Fund.

Thank you Ken for the fine note and your generous contribution to the slush fund. I tried to insert your qual card but it came out very dark and was unreadable, either that I was taken aback by someone who actually qualified on time. Thanks again.





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 DeLONG EN (63-66)
MILES WILLIAMS QM (69-70)
JOE LEONARDI EM (57-59)



SHIPMATES, REST YOUR OARS

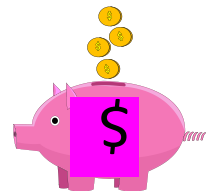
The following shipmates are new (found) additions to our roster. Your committee is thankful for all who helped in locating them and we will continue our search until we have attempted to locate everyone.

LASTNAME	FIRSTNAME	ADDRESS	CITY ST	ZIP CODE	PHONE	YOB
HOOPER	MARK	195 WILD HORSE RD.	DECATUR TX	76234		71-72
_ALLMON	ROBERT	26654_SKI HILL LOOP	HONEY CREEK IA	51542		72-73
FIENE	SCOTT	1941 LAKESHORE	LODI CA	95242		64



THANK YOU!

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



Alan Sharpe Mike Hulboj Dave Kottke Ike Cohen Lt. Kenneth McDemott Lt. Eugene Dvornick
Capt. David Kreiger William & Susan Grand Joseph & Donette Fitzpatrick Jack & Diane O'Connor
Brian & Maryann Griswold George LeBlanc Jim & Harriet Schultz
Special thanks to Paull Anderson

BE SURE TO READ THE LUCKY BAG FOR NEW AND IMPORTANT SLUSH FUND NEWS!

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER THE FOLLOWING SHIPMATES HAVE CHANGED THEIR ADDRESS

ALAN F SHARPE 429 JEANETTE DR UTICA, NY 13502
WILLIE B CREEL 937 BOWMAN RD. APT 149 MT. PLEASANT, SC 29464
CAPT. EUGENE S. DVORNICK 520 112TH ST. APT 219 EVERETT, WA 98204
ALAN THOLE 1137 205TH AVE NW ELK RIVER, MN 55330

Edward DeLong-Cast off all lines and deployed on Eternal Patrol Tuesday April 22, 2020. Born in Sellersville, PA on December 16, 1944, Ed was the son of the late Arthur R and Lenore (Newman) DeLong. Ed was a graduate of North Penn High School, and enlisted in the US Navy in 1962. He served honorably as an engineman aboard the BANG from 1963-1966. He went on to work as an automotive mechanic for several auto dealerships in the Lansdale area, a line mechanic for Mack Trucks in Mcungie and retiring as a Philadelphia BAC Union brick mason. Ed was a true sportsman, and spent a lifetime hunting and fishing. As an avid trap shooter Ed could always be found with his friends from the club preparing for the next shoot. He preferred to travel the world by cruise with his wife Jane and had uncharacteristically taken up golf in retirement. Known as a frugal man he would always surprise with generosity when least expected. He had served as the Bang's treasurer until the time of his passing. Ed leaves behind his wife Jane, two children, Sean E (Stacy) DeLong, Jean M. DeLong Marinari, six grandchildren, a sister Barbara R. (DeLong) Sma-kula, 34 nieces and nephews, and an aunt Margaret L Grand. Besides his parents, Ed was predeceased by his brother Norman DeLong. Ed was laid to rest at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Nockamixon, PA on April 28, 2020. A military salute and celebration will be announced at a later time so all can attend. Donations in Ed's memory may be sent to the Ed DeLong Memorial Trap shoot C/O Jane deLong 894 Indian Creek Road, Harleysville, PA 19438. also to the USS BANG Reunion C/O Issac (Ike) Cohen, 26 Rossetti Ct. Brick, NJ 08724-2426.

June Kracker- June Kracker died peacefully in her sleep on May 20, 2020 after a brief illness. She is survived by her husband and BANG plankowner Ed Kracker, and her brother David Kirchner of Cleveland , OH. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews, and countless dear friends she thought of as family. June, along with her husband Ed, was a long time reunion attendee, and it was always a pleasure to see both her and Ed at each reunion. June always made everyone feel at home and her laugh was truly infectious. The funeral was held on May 30th at St. Mary Catholic Church, Chesapeake, Va.

Miles E. Williams Sr.-Embarked on Eternal Patrol on December 30, 2019. Born in Wichita Falls, TX. on Oct. 25, 1934. He grew up and attended school in Banning CA. Miles was a 20 year US Navy retiree serving from 1953-1974, the last ten years on submarines. He qualified on the USS Stimson in 1966. He served aboard the BANG from 69-70 and the Queenfish retiring in 1974 as a QMC(SS).



Joe Leonardi- Shipmate Joe Leonardi passed away on April 3rd. Joe was a frequent attendee at our reunions and was most recently in Myrtle Beach.

YOUR HOSTS



ERIC AND SALLY ERICSON
JENNIFER WILSON

**USS BANG (\$\$385)
77TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION
WASHINGTON, D.C.
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 25TH 2021
through
SATURDAY AUGUST 28TH 2021
Rate is \$119.00 nt./pl tx
Rate includes Breakfast for Two
Daily**

HEADQUARTERS



**HILTON DOUBLETREE CRYSTAL CITY
300 ARMY NAVY BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202
1-703-416-4100**

**CALL THE HOTEL DIRECTLY AND BE SURE TO SAY YOU'RE WITH THE BANG
REUNION GROUP**

- Tuesday August 24th—Early Bird Arrivals Hospitality room opens 12 Noon**
**Wed. August 25th— Check-in— Get “Welcome” Envelope Hosp. Room opens
at 10am**
- Thurs. August 26th—9:30 am Bus leaves for Marine Corps Museum and
Mt. Vernon tours**
- Fri. August 27th—9:30am Bus leaves for Washington Navy Yard and
Nation’s Capitol tours**
- Sat. August 28th— 9:00am-Business meeting/Ladies 50’s 60’s trivia
6:30pm-Cocktails, pictures, Banquet, Guest speaker
VADM Richard P. Breckenridge to follow**

MAKE SURE TO CHECK THE NEW DATES

**HOWEVER DO NOT CALL THE HOTEL FOR RESERVATIONS
JUST YET, THIS IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY. THE HOTEL IS
NOT SET UP TO TAKE OUR RESERVATIONS NOW FOR 2021**





What to see and do around our Nation's Capitol

During our time in Washington D.C. (Arlington , Va.) we will have a fun-filled week awaiting us. With the Double Tree Hilton as our base we will be right in the middle of Washington D.C. The hotel provides a free shuttle to the Pentagon City Metro stop, and Reagan National airport. The Metro will take you to any part of the city in minutes. The quaint, yet busy city of Alexandria with it's famous restaurants and quiet tree lined boulevards is a just a stop away. Further on you can get to Nationals Park to catch a game with the reigning World series champions. They'll be playing the Mets while we're here! From the hotel's hospitality room you have a panoramic view of Washington including the Pentagon, The Capitol building and the Washington Monument. The daily rate of \$119.00/nt/pl tx includes breakfast for two daily, which should prepare us for our two days of tours. I have chosen four tours that I feel will encapsulate America's Military and Historical Heritage for us.

Thursday we will depart for the United States Marine Museum in Triangle Va. near Quantico. Then we'll head on up to Mount Vernon and tour George Washington's mansion. Both sights are very close and not a tiring bus ride. We should be back at the hotel by 5PM.

Friday after breakfast we'll head out to the Washington Navy Yard Museum, again near the hotel. The Navy yard is an actual Navy Base so photo ID is required. I will have more detailed instructions in the next newsletter. The Museum is having a special "Cold War" exhibit right now that highlights the role that submarines played in our actual victory. I'm sure that will be of interest for most of us. Then off to the Capitol building and a tour of the rotunda and surrounding areas, If you watch early morning TV and the talking heads, this is where they film. Then back to the hotel, hopefully by 5PM if the Traffic Gods are on our side! Lunch is on your own each day, but the Marine Museum and the Navy Yard have plenty of places to catch a bite.

Saturday morning we will have our business meeting and the ladies will attend, not bingo, but a 50's and 60's music trivia contest, with fabulous and priceless gifts! That night is our Banquet with, as our special guest speaker, VADM Richard P Breckenridge USN (ret). Adm "Rick" as I call him, is a Naval Academy Graduate Class of 1982. Among his accomplishments are Commanding Officer USS Memphis (SSN 691), Commander SUBGRPTWO New London, and Naval Attaché to former Secretary of Defense William Cohen. His last assignment was Deputy Director Submarine Operations (Atlantic Fleet). He is now employed by Northrop Grumman in Fairfax, Va. Adm Rick is a skilled and entertaining speaker and we are privileged to have him speak to us.

Well, that's a look into what we should expect for our week in Arlington, Va. I hope you all can make it. It is also a great time to bring the kids and grandkids for a road trip to our Nation's Capitol! It will be a week they're sure to remember. Hope to see you there.

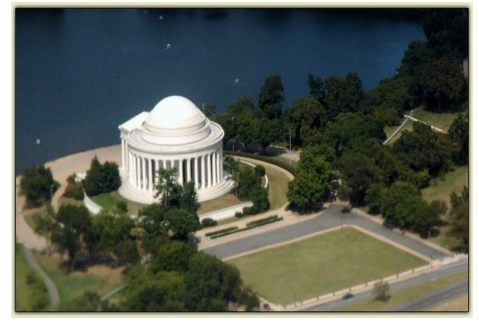
MONUMENTS, STATUES, AND OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST IN D.C. THAT YOU MAY WANT TO SEE OR VISIT IF YOU PLAN TO EXTEND YOUR STAY



WORLD WAR II MONUMENT



LINCOLN MEMORIAL



JEFFERSON MEMORIAL



KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL



NAVY MEMORIAL



VIETNAM MEMORIAL



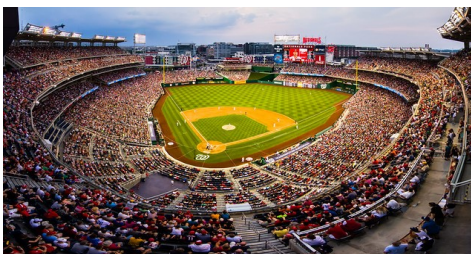
THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES



THE NATIONAL GALLERY



THE SMITHSONIAN



NATIONALS FIELD



THE WHITE HOUSE



THE MARINE BARRACKS

WHAT WE PLAN TO DO NOW

Well, as I've said before, don't count your reunions before they're hatched. We had placed a GO/NO GO date of July 1st as to when we would decide to cancel the reunion. Obviously we reached that decision long before hand as it became clear that that the COVID-19 crisis was not abating. In fact, at this writing, it is getting worse, with the Northern Virginia/Washington DC area hit particularly hard.

It is always hard to cancel a long and (thanks to Jennifer !) well organized reunion, but when circumstances such as these arise, there can be no other recourse. One silver lining, however is that next year's reunion is on, with close to the same dates and times, (see the Headquarters page for some changes, such as a lower room rate)! Again, thank you Jennifer. Also, most of the heavy lifting has been done, with the exception of a few odds and ends, so we can proceed without much backtracking.

Jennifer has contacted the Doubletree Hilton, and I have rescheduled the dates and times for the bus company, so we are good to go on those fronts. I have also spoken to VADM Breckenridge and he's on for next year. Speaking of the Doubletree, if anyone had made reservations for this year's reunion, **BE SURE TO CALL THEM, AND CANCEL!** I have included the cancellation notice that I sent out to the shipmates on the digital newsletter list, President Bill Fenton included the cancellation notice on the BANG website. We felt that putting out a separate mailing for the snail mail people would be cost prohibitive. I know that many of the hard copy newsletter shipmates do have internet capability, but still want the newsletter they can hold in their hands, I get it. But with something as important as this, some may miss the chance of getting some important scuttlebutt . So what I am proposing is this. If you have internet access, but still want the paper option, send me your email address. I will put it in a dedicated folder, that will only be used if we need to get you some very timely and important news like the reunion cancellation. It will NOT cancel out your hard copy newsletter. Just put "email address for emergencies" in the subject line.

And then behind door Number Three we have those shipmates who do not have internet access. Here's what you do:

First: Report to the Bosun's Locker. (just kidding) Just drop me a post card with your address and a note saying use this address to send important info. My address is on the masthead. I'll make up a special label list to send the notice out. I hope this will eliminate any of the shipmates literally not getting the memo.

Finally, you may see some familiar stuff from past newsletters this time. This is what happens when God throws a monkey wrench into the main seawater intake valve. I was going to use this newsletter to update more reunion stuff. We TM's, as you know, operate on one plane, one speed. But another silver lining, I'll be able to use more filler on the reunion in the issues to come. I'm thinking of a group trip to see the Nationals play, perhaps a Friday night at the Marine Barracks to watch the Marine Band perform, there are a lot of options out there, watch this space, (or another one) for further sitreps.

Thanks to all who sent notes or emails regarding the cancellation, your support is much appreciated. Also thanks to President Bill and Jennifer Wilson for their continued support during this crazy time.

Make sure you stay safe and healthy so I see you next year!

Eric



Navy Blue Ballcap - \$8.00 ea.
Solid or Mesh top State Your Choice



6" Window Trilogy Decal
\$5.00 ea.

All orders are normally sold at our Reunions or shipped via USPS Priority Mail. Send mail orders to Isaac Cohen with your check payable to USS Bang and be sure to include a few extra bucks to cover the postage.

Please include your phone number in case of discrepancies. Mail to: Isaac (Ike) Cohen 26 Rossetti Ct. Brick, NJ 08724-2426

Note: License Plates are no longer available.

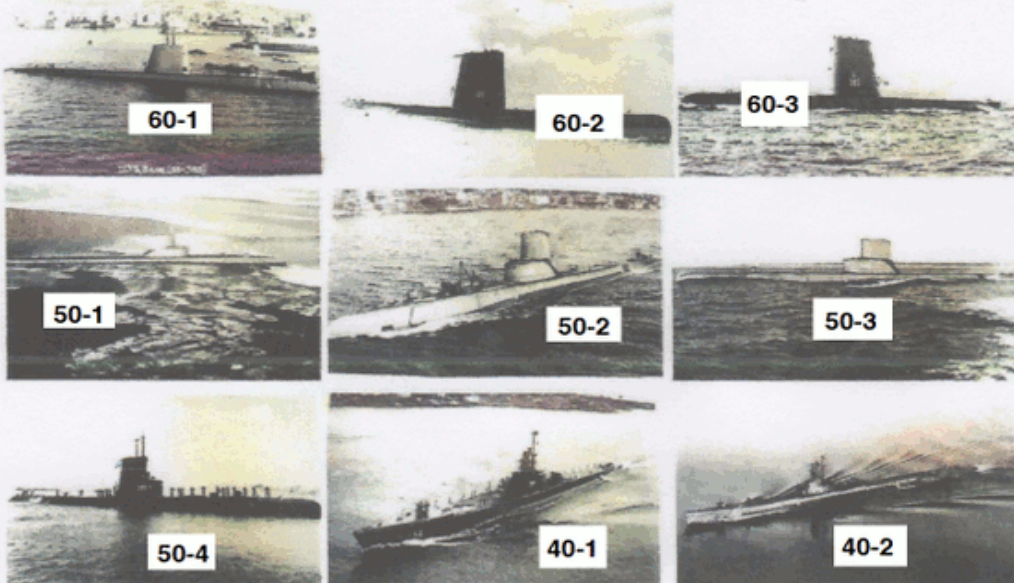


5" Jacket Patch - \$5.00 ea.
State Your Choice



1" Lapel/Hat pins - \$5.00 ea.
State Your Choice

11x14 BANG Photos - 40's, 50's, 60's - \$3.00 ea. State Your Choice



50's

75th Anniversary Hat / Lapel Pin

\$ 5.00



60's/70's

75th Anniversary Challenge Coins

\$15.00



Bang Trilogy

Mouse Pad

\$12.00

May 12, 2020

Dear shipmates and friends,

As many of you know, I have been following the current Covid-19 situation as to how it will ultimately affect our upcoming reunion. This Monday I checked with the Doubletree and they informed me that they *anticipate* reopening the catering and meeting areas of the hotel on or around June 30th conditions permitting. This is one day before our planned "Go, No Go" cut off date. The situation, as I said before is mercurial to say the least. So with no definitive remedy to this virus in the near future, I, along with my colleague Jennifer Wilson, and after consulting with our President Bill Fenton, have decided to cancel this year's reunion and reschedule it for next year, 2021. I will detail some of the reasons we came to this necessary but disappointing decision.

While several areas of the country have begun a staged "opening" they have come with many caveats and restrictions such as limited seating and social distancing. The wearing of face masks is mandatory in some cases, and some food supplies are beginning to be rationed. This does not bode well for an enjoyable reunion. Plus, we are all in what is called the "Core Vulnerable Group." That is not an environment we want be in at this time.

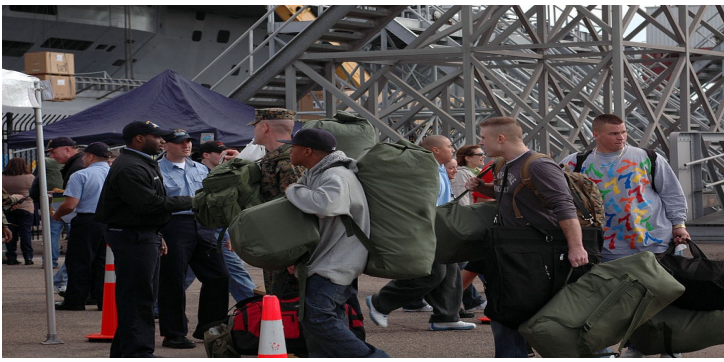
Since the reunion is on the East Coast, many of the attendees will be driving a long distance or flying. Neither choice is pleasurable, even in the best of times, now each is uncomfortable at best, dangerous at worst. We don't want any shipmate or their families or guests to put themselves in harm's way. Finally, all the sites, as they are Government or Federal establishments are closed, in their words, "until further notice."

To those shipmates who have sent in registration forms and payment, I did NOT cash the check and I will send it back. Since we may have to change dates, menu items, and tours, I will also return your registration form. If you have any questions, please contact me at eric735244@aol.com or 978-491-0114.

This, I believe, is the first time we have cancelled a reunion, and it took a world-wide pandemic to do it. While it will be sad and disappointing not to see our shipmates and running mates once again, to swap sea stories we've heard a thousand times before but can't wait until we hear them again; we will return. We are looking at August/September 2021 to reunite again and Jennifer is in contact with the hotel for final dates and rates. We may be on "shore duty" for now, but soon we'll be back together sharing even better "war stories". I will have more updates in the next Newsletter, so until then, take care, and be safe.

Thank you,

Eric H Ericson, III



THE LUCKY BAG

Well Shipmates,

Here is the second installment of the The Lucky Bag, where we do a little house cleaning and catching up with stuff that may be of interest to you all. As we have seen, a few more of our “Gang” have unfortunately departed on Eternal Patrol, and while all we lose are missed, there are those that make us stop and ponder. This quarter we lost two of our long time reunion attendees. The cover is usually reserved for World War II plank owners but sometimes there those who made such an impact on the “Bang Gang” we afford them pride of place, so to speak. This time we remember two such people. Ed DeLong was a longtime treasurer of the Bang Gang and a great shipmate to boot. I remember that when Ed said he might not make it to the Myrtle Beach reunion, I was disappointed, but he gathered up his strength, and made it. June Kracker, while not a shipmate per se, was the wife of our oldest and perennial reunion attendee, plank owner Ed Kracker. Those who have attended any reunion, know it didn’t really start until June and Ed arrived. June made everyone feel at home, and her eternally sunny disposition and infectious laugh made every get together all that more special. I will miss both of them terribly. I have the feeling you will too.



Now to some happier stuff. Every Memorial Day, the USSVI Marblehead Base (MA) participates in the annual Town of Marblehead Parade. Before it kicks off though, the members, (of which I am one) have a ceremony where we throw roses into the harbor, the birthplace of the US Navy by the way, to remember all 52 submarines lost in WWII and those since then. As the years went by more and more spectators came to watch, and now it has large following. This year, due to the COVID-19 virus, the parade was cancelled. But Shipmate **George LeBlanc**, the base treasurer decided to hold the ceremony anyway. In the picture, George is on the left, along with Mike Hogan, ET2(SS) USS LOS ANGELES (SSN688). Mike was my postman back home. A Navy Vet who went to work in the Post Office, go figure! Bravo Zulu George and Mike!

Since the sad passing of Ed DeLong, Storekeeper Ike Cohen has graciously agreed to relieve the helm. Send ALL slush fund donations to Ike. His address is: 26 Rossetti Ct. Brick, NJ 08724-2426. Thank you Ike for once again stepping up to the plate. BTW That was the new and important slush fund news.

Not ALL us Bang Gangers were always in the boats. Many were in the surface fleet before or after coming to the BANG. I’d like to start a section, tentatively entitled “Target for Today” If you were a skimmer at one time and would like have your ship in the newsletter, just email or write me with (a) the name of your ship, (b) years you were attached, and (c) perhaps a story or anecdote of your time aboard. I’ll take it from there!

P.S. I’m looking at you, John Kraft! AKA “The Little Giant”

Finally one more thing before I go... From a sign outside a Texas Mexican restaurant:

This Father’s Day buy your Dad a Margarita, you’re probably the reason he drinks anyway!

Stay safe gentlemen and I’ll catch you next time!

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



FIRST – CLASS MAIL
FORWARDING SERVICE
REQUESTED



PRAISE OUR MILITARY! - AND PRAY FOR THEM TOO.

