

October 2016
Post-Reunion Issue



LAKE CHARLES TIMES

Summarizing a most successful 2016 USS Savage Reunion in Scottsdale, Arizona September 22-26, 2016

The 2016 reunion in Scottsdale, planned and executed by Mel Kowal and Tony Morris, was a delight for all who attended. Below is a photo taken at Wesley Bolin Plaza shortly after the memorial service. Names of attendees are shown on page 2. Also inside this issue you'll find links to on-line photo albums from a few of our photographers, along with a list of the newly elected reunion association officers and some news about the 2017 reunion.



Photo courtesy of Tom Hendricks

Newsletter of the U.S.S. Savage (DE/DER-386) Reunion Association

Shipmates who attended

Allen, Joe (Tiny)	CS2 1966-1968
Callahan, Jim	YN2 07/62 - 07/64
DeWald, Bruce & Sally	AG2 1959 - 1961
Doster, Paul	EN3 1956 - 1957
Dykstra, Dan & Fran	YN2 06/66 - 05/68
Geiermann, Dick & Linda	LTJG 06/65 - 03/67
Hendricks, Tom & Judy	RM3 05/65 - 04/67
Kowal, Mel & Eileen	LTJG 1955 - 1957
Mestas, Frank & Maria	GMG3 1963 - 1966
Morris, Tony & Sandy	RM2 1965 - 1968
Moss, T.J. & Judy	STG2 1966 - 1969
Murphy, Jim & Gail	STG3 1966 - 1969
Portillo, Arturo & Nancy	SN 12/63 - 12/67
Rego, Ed & Pat	BT3 08/63 - 08/66
Stone, Ed & Ginny	LTJG 05/61 - 04/63
Vanderburg, Jerry & Claudia	E5 1966 - 1968
Velez, Ernie, Mary, & John	TM3 1966 - 1968
Wilson, Mack & Gloria	RM3 12/63 - 12/67

Associates

NAME	RANK/RATE, DATES
Boucher, Dave, Emma, Janet, Tyler (family of Jim Murphy)	STG3 1966 - 1969
Burkhart, Mike & Kim (son of John Burkhart)	GM1c 1943 - 1946
Farley, Dan Jr. (son of Daniel P. Farley)	RM2c 01/44 - 10/45
Krieger, Ron (brother-in-law of Victor Belaire)	EM3 1956 - 1957
Pizzola, Elaine (daughter of Daniel P. Farley)	RM2c 01/44 - 10/45

Families and Friends

Once again we were graced with the presence of Jim Murphy's daughter and family, with first-time attendees Mike and Kim Burkhart, and their daughter, and with family members of deceased shipmates Dan Farley and Vic Belaire (Dan Farley, Jr., Elaine Pizzola, and Ron Krieger).

If you are a friend or relative of one who can no longer attend these reunions, please consider joining us. You may learn some surprising things about those you represent – such as the meaning of the rating badge chevron colors on the uniform sleeve of the late John Burkhart, which was part of an extensive display of his memorabilia brought by his son Mike.

Names in the Group Photo

Row 1: Tom Hendricks, Arturo Portillo, Dave Boucher, Emma Boucher, Tiny Allen, Kim Burkhart, Mike Burkhart.

Row 2: Jim Callahan, Janet Boucher, Tyler Boucher, Elaine Pizzola, Gail Murphy, Mary Velez, Nancy Portillo, Gloria Wilson, Mel Kowal, Tony Morris.

Row 3: Dan Dykstra, Linda Geiermann, Ginny Stone, Fran Dykstra, Judy Hendricks, Pat Rego.

Row 4: Ernie Velez, Dan Farley, Jr., Jim Murphy, Maria Mestas, Bruce DeWald.

Row 5: Frank Mestas, Ron Krieger, Dick Geiermann, Ed Rego, T.J. Moss, Ed Stone, Judy Moss, Paul Doster, Mack Wilson.

Where We Met

The 2016 reunion site was the Holiday Inn Express and Suites, located in the heart of Scottsdale, AZ. This is where the socializing began, both in the hospitality suite and in the breakfast and lobby areas. Shuttle services and free bus routes got us to the local areas of interest, and we car-caravanned to other reunion activities. The hotel provided a daily manager's reception to ward off starvation prior to the dinners and banquets.

What We Did

Thursday was check-in day, and ninety percent of the attendees had arrived by the end of the day. They were presented with a welcome bag that contained some Scottsdale literature, a water bottle and koozie, a Scottsdale pin for those with USS Savage caps, and a commemorative pen provided by an anonymous reunion donor.

Friday began with informal, unguided shopping tours and explorations of Old Town Scottsdale. After lunch we visited Scottsdale's Western Spirit Museum and saw some fascinating southwestern art.

On Saturday morning we held the annual memorial service at the World War II Memorial site at Wesley Bolin Plaza in Phoenix. This year we were fortunate to have music provided by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Band. The names of two hundred twenty-nine USS Savage

shipmates who have "passed over the bar" were read, and a bell tolled for each.

At the conclusion of the memorial service Tom Hendricks took group photos. Then we toured the Arizona State Capitol Museum, which houses the Pearl Harbor collection of artifacts from the Battleship Arizona.

Lunch at the Old Spaghetti Factory and a guided tour of the Heard Museum in Phoenix completed the afternoon.

A Mexican Fiesta dinner, including music by the Happy Mariachi Trio (and entertainment by Ernie Velez and Gloria Wilson, and whomever they could get to perform with them) was held Saturday evening at the McDowell Mountain Ranch Community Association facility in Paradise Valley.

Sunday, the last full day of the reunion, began with guided tours of the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, where we saw all varieties of cactus, some nearly as old as we were!

Afternoon events included the annual meeting and a lively charity auction, which generated sufficient funds to complete the WW II plaque at the Mt. Soledad Memorial in San Diego. A free raffle drawing awarded a free hotel room for the reunion to one lucky couple.

Sunday evening we enjoyed a barbecue banquet and dancing to live music and a vocalist, again at the McDowell Mountain Ranch facility.

New Association Officers

Paul Doster resigned his post of Vice President, and was thanked by President Dan Dykstra for his years of service. There were three nominations from the floor for the office of Vice President, and Ernie Velez was elected. All other current officers were re-elected for another one-year term.

The Association officers for 2016/2017 are as follows:

President: Dan **Dykstra***

Vice President: Ernie **Velez**

Secretary: Ed **Stone**

Treasurer: Tom **Hendricks**

Historian: Ray **Ewing**

Chaplain: Dan **Dykstra**

* Note: Dan Dykstra's plea to invoke term limits (particularly on the office of President) was ignored.

2017 Reunion Preview

A few years ago we began the practice of rotating reunions among locations on the east coast, west coast and points between. Next year we will be back on the East Coast. The hosts for the 2017 reunion are Dick and Linda Geiermann, and their committee includes Ed and Ginny Stone. The reunion will be held in Pensacola, at the Holiday Inn Resort Pensacola Beach. Because of steep reductions in room rates in November, we tentatively plan to meet from Sunday, 11/5 to Thursday, 11/9. The Navy's Blue Angels will hold their final air shows of the year at NAS Pensacola on November 10 and 11, so those who can extend their stay for a day or two can enjoy a spectacular aerial performance. Details will be announced within the next few months, but please set aside our tentative dates now, and plan to attend.



Letters to the Editor

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<p>Dear Ed,</p> <p>I did receive the recap of the 2015 USS Savage Reunion that was held in Savannah Georgia.</p> <p>Thank you! the issue was filled with all the details!</p> <p>You sure had a Great Group that attended and pictures, Loved it.</p> <p>My Name was even mentioned But the Name is <u>Alvina DROUIN</u> you had (Droulin) no. But thanks as I wish I was there. I know Joseph Francis Drouin and I were there In Spirit.</p> <p>"Joe" died April 4-2007. Cancer. He was Chief Quarter Master 21 years in the U.S. Navy.</p> <p>I was on the Savage when it was Dock in Long Beach Calif.</p>	<p>Thank You again. I will write my Children and Tell them all. We had "6" of Boys & girls - Nice Navy family - 'S.</p> <p>God Bless You Ed and family my Love Keep you Safe, Happy and at peace.</p> <p>(With all our Love.) Ciao Bella Mia</p> <p>Alvina M. Drouin (Giannino) e Familgia</p> <p>I had open heart pigs valve and then a pace maker later. I'm doing Well Now- Live with daughter Dawn in San Dimas Ca. Living Good. Love Alvina ♡ IM 882 8129115-</p>	

Every time we publish a newsletter or send out an updated roster several shipmates reply with emails or letters, or phone calls. I often print such replies and display them at reunions. The above letter from Alvina Drouin typifies the sentiments expressed by those who respond. They have deep positive feelings for the ship on which we served, and for our shipmates. That's why it is so important to sustain this organization, and to gather for our annual reunions.

2016 Reunion Photos On Line

Photos taken by three participants during the Scottsdale reunion are posted on line. To view them, please type the following links to your browser, or click on the links in the email for this newsletter.

Mike Burkhart

<https://www.flickr.com/x/t/0091009/gp/147655896@N07/WF8u10/>

Tom Hendricks

<http://www.tomehendricks.com> then USS Savage page

Ed Stone

<https://flic.kr/s/aHskHUValy>

This issue was written, by Ed Stone and edited by Ginny Stone.