

October 2015  
Post-Reunion Issue



# LAKE CHARLES TIMES

A recap of the 2015 USS Savage Reunion, held  
in Savannah, Georgia - September 24-28, 2015

In this issue you'll find details on the 2015 reunion (who attended, what we did, where we ate, who needs our encouragement in difficult times, and where and when we plan to meet next year).

First, a note on the name of this newsletter. The tactical voice radio call name that identified us as the USS Savage was Lake Charles.

Here is the group picture showing the reunion attendees. Look closely, as some are trying to hide in the tree or behind others.



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

## Who Attended

<b>Agosta, Sandy</b> (Mrs Tony)	ME3 3/55 - 2/57
<b>Allen, Tiny</b>	CS2 1966-1968
<b>Boucher, Dave, Janet, Tyler &amp; Emma</b>	Murphys' daughter & family
<b>Bruss, Lee &amp; Lois</b>	EN2 02/55 - 08/56
<b>Chaney, Bill &amp; Susan</b>	Seaman 1c 8/44 - 10/45
<b>Crumley, Delilah</b> (Mrs. Raymon J)	DC3 1954 - 1956
<b>Degler, Dale &amp; Margaret</b>	EM2 1955 - 1956
<b>Doster, Paul</b>	EN3 1956 - 1957
<b>Dykstra, Dan &amp; Fran</b>	YN2 06/66 - 05/68
<b>Ewing, Ray &amp; Bettye</b>	EN2 1955 - 1956
<b>Farley, Dan Jr.</b> (son of Dan, Sr.)	RM2c 01/44 - 10/45
<b>Gaillard, Ron</b>	EN3 1956 - 1957
<b>Geiermann, Dick &amp; Linda</b>	LTJG 06/65 - 03/67
<b>Giroir, Roy &amp; Gaudet, Ethel</b>	QM2 05/65 - 06/67
<b>Hansen, Gene &amp; Linda</b>	EM3 01/56 - 08/57
<b>Harvey, Bill &amp; Marge</b>	DE2 1960 - 1964
<b>Hendricks, Tom &amp; Judy</b>	RM3 05/65 - 04/67
<b>Landry, Davis &amp; Karen</b>	Ethel's sister & husband
<b>Matthews, Bill &amp; Sandy</b>	ETR2 01/63 - 09/65
<b>Murphy, Jim &amp; Gail</b>	STG3 1966 - 1969
<b>Pizzola, Elaine</b> (daughter of Dan Farley, Sr.)	RM2c 01/44 - 10/45
<b>Pridgen, Tommy &amp; Jones, Rose</b>	EN3 1955 - 1957
<b>Rego, Ed &amp; Pat</b>	BT3 08/63 - 08/66
<b>Stone, Ed &amp; Ginny</b>	LTJG 05/61 - 04/63
<b>Turner, Jesse &amp; Essie</b>	EN3 11/60 - 5/62
<b>Vanderburg, Jerry &amp; Claudia</b>	E5 1966 - 1968
<b>Wilson, Mack &amp; Gloria</b>	RM3 12/63 - 12/67
<b>Witts, Tom &amp; Carol</b>	IC3 1967 - 1969

## Names in Group Photo

*Back row:* Tommy **Pridgen**, Dan **Farley**, Gene **Hansen**, Dale **Degler**, Ray **Ewing**, Paul **Doster**, Tiny **Allen.**, Lee **Bruss**, Tom **Witts**, Ron **Gaillard**, Dan **Dykstra**, Mack **Wilson**, Bill **Matthews**, Jim **Murphy**, Tom **Hendricks**, Pat **Rego**, Ed **Stone**, Ed **Rego**, Davis **Landry**

*Middle row standing:* Jesse **Turner**, Essie **Turner**, Linda **Hansen**, Bettye **Ewing**, Susan **Chaney**, Lois **Bruss**, Carol **Witt**, Sandy **Matthews**, Claudia **Vanderburg**, Jerry **Vanderburg**, Judy **Hendricks**, Linda **Geiermann**, Dick **Geiermann**, Karen **Landry**

*Front row standing:* Rose **Jones**, Bill **Chaney**, Bill **Harvey**, Marge **Harvey**, Ethel **Gaudet**, Fran **Dykstra**, Gloria **Wilson**, Delilah **Crumley**, Sandy **Agosta**

*Kneeling in front:* Elaine **Pizzola**, Ginny **Stone**, Gail **Murphy**, Emma **Boucher**, Roy **Giroir**, Janet **Boucher**, Tyler **Boucher**, Dave **Boucher**

## Families and Friends

For many years we have “adopted” friends and family members of shipmates. One year Jack Smith’s family all came to celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. This reunion the Murphys’ daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren added some youthful delights to our gathering. The late Dan Farley, Sr.’s children, Dan and Elaine regularly attend reunions, as do widows of shipmates (Sandy Agosta and Delilah Crumley this year). Please continue this welcome tradition of bringing others to USS Savage reunions. They add a lot!

## Where We Met

The charming city of Savannah, GA was the site of this year's reunion, and our Holiday Inn hotel illustrated what Southern Hospitality means. We had a large hospitality suite for breakfasts, socializing and for the Sunday evening banquet.

## What We Did

On Thursday most of the crew arrived, by cars and planes. A large group of us had dinner in Carlito's Mexican Bar and Grill in the historic district.

Friday was tour day, including a narrated bus tour of Savannah in the morning and a paddle-wheel river boat cruise in the afternoon. Lunch and dinner were at various local restaurants.

Our memorial service, complete with color guard, was held Saturday afternoon at the Chapel of the Fallen Eagles, on the grounds of the Mighty Eighth Air Force museum. A tour of the museum followed the service, and the day ended with a buffet dinner, live music and great fellowship.

Sunday was the concluding day of the reunion. Some of us toured other parts of Savannah and its surrounding sites before the afternoon business meeting and spirited and profitable auction. The banquet in our hospitality suite featured more live classical guitar music by Joe Flanders, USS Savage challenge coins, and some beautifully dressed ladies who graced our tables.

## The Raffle

We acquired the rights to use three digital images of photos taken of the USS Savage (DE-386) during construction and launch at Brown Shipyard in Houston in 1943. Ed Stone made large prints of them, had them framed, and sold raffle tickets with the photos as prizes. We earned \$500 on that activity.

## The Auction

During the business meeting the subject of our lagging efforts to raise enough money to have a plaque designed by shipmate Dan Farley, Sr. made and installed at the Mt. Soledad Memorial in San Diego was brought up. We voted to devote the day's auction proceeds to that effort. The auction broke all known records for our association, with over \$1,200 raised. This will enable us to complete the memorial plaque project. Perhaps we will all be able to see it at the next west coast reunion.

## New Association Officers

Our President, Jim Murphy, and Treasurer, Gloria Wilson (both of whom have done a great job) declined to run for re-election. At the business meeting we elected a full slate of officers. They are: Dan Dykstra, president; Paul Doster, vice-president; Ed Stone, secretary; Tom Hendricks, treasurer; Ray Ewing, historian; and Dan Dykstra, chaplain. Congrats!

## Framed Savage Prints Available

Two framed 1943 USS Savage construction and launching prints raffled and auctioned at the reunion generated considerable interest, and Ed Stone has started taking orders for additional copies. If you would like to purchase framed or unframed prints of any or all of the three images in 8X10 or 12 ½ X 16 ½ size, please contact Ed. The price for framed ones is \$150 plus shipping for one large **or** two small prints in one frame. Shipping could add another \$60 or so. This is our cost plus \$5, for the Savage Reunion Association treasury, to subsidize the cost of mailing newsletters and directories to those who do not have email.



The frame on the left measures 19" X 21 1/4", and the one on the right measures 15 3/4" X 22 3/4". Framing is done at the Lyons Share Gallery in Fairhope, AL.

Unframed prints on 13X19 Canon Photo Paper Pro Luster cost \$40 apiece (same price one went for at the auction), and 8 1/2 X 11 prints on the same paper cost \$25 each, plus shipping.

Ed's contact info is (251) 978-4562 or [edstone1960@alumni.purdue.edu](mailto:edstone1960@alumni.purdue.edu).

## Challenge Coins

Building on a growing tradition started several years ago by Jim Murphy, each reunion attendee was given a USS Savage challenge coin at the Sunday banquet. Dan Dykstra led the design and procurement effort, and he and Jim Murphy, Ray Ewing and Ed Stone shared the cost. A few coins are still available for \$10 each, plus postage. If interested, please call or email Dan, and they will be sold on a first-come first-served basis until they are gone.

Dan's contact info is (712)752-8199 or [faddjd@hotmail.com](mailto:faddjd@hotmail.com).



## Happy Birthday, Bill Chaney

On September 26 we celebrated the 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday of our dear friend and shipmate, Bill Chaney. Bill and Susan have honored us with their presence for many years. He was the only WW II Coast Guard vet present at this year's



reunion. When asked about the secret of his longevity he said he never drinks or smokes and never associates with what he termed “common women.” Let's hope there were none of those present at this birthday party!

See more reunion photos at <https://www.flickr.com/gp/edstone/6Yp133>. A DVD will be made with these and other photos taken by various photographers at the reunion. Please let Ed Stone know if you want one. The price will be \$5 apiece, including postage. Ed's contact info is (251) 978-4562 or [edstone1960@alumni.purdue.edu](mailto:edstone1960@alumni.purdue.edu).

## Shipmates to Contact

Several of our shipmates would have liked to attend the Savannah reunion last week, but were or are unable to travel for a variety of reasons. I'm sure they would appreciate a call or letter (or email) from their old friends. I'll try to list all that I recall hearing from, and their situations – hoping this is not an invasion of their privacy, but more of a show of caring and support.

- Chuck Bird (unable to travel)
- Curt Brotherton (recent health issues)
- Jim Callahan (Stephanie's health)
- Augie Chase (Can't go far from home)
- Diane Day (mother's health issues)
- Alvina Droulin (unable to fly)
- Leon Groth (says he's lost at sea)
- Chuck Huber (house sale activities)
- Ron Krieger (shoulder surgery)
- Joe Rand (medical issues)
- Lou Schlaufman (He and Jean are 87)
- Art Sumner (heart and COPD issues)
- Ernie Velez (heart attack and surgery)
- Paul Webb (health issues)
- Don Yochum (recent death in family)
- Don sent a 50's video of the Savage underway, which we enjoyed at the reunion.
- Ray Zachgo (Millie's health issues)

A current USS Savage directory will be sent to everyone as soon as the secretary (Ed Stone) gets it updated.

## 2016 Reunion Plans

The site selected for our 2016 reunion is Scottsdale, Arizona – or as close to there as we can get with an affordable hotel.

The reunion dates are 9/22-26/2016. That's a Thursday arrival and Monday departure. Average high and low temperatures for Scottsdale in September are 98 and 74, but actual highs and lows could be different, considering the global warming effect.

Watch for reunion details early next year from reunion chairman Mel Kowal and his Alabama assistant, Ed Stone.

## DER-386 Plank Owners

Five plank owners of the newly-converted DER-386 are shown in this photo, taken at the banquet at the Mighty Eighth Air Force museum last Saturday.



They are, left to right: Tommy Pridgen, Sandy Agosta (Mrs. Tony), Ray Ewing, Delilah Crumley (Mrs. Ray), and Lee Bruss.

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