



# USS SPRINGFIELD

## Newsletter

<https://usspringfield.org/newsletter.pdf>



### Officers

**President**  
Dave Schantz  
29 Wood Run Cir  
Rochester NY 14612-2271  
585-723-0760  
daveschantz@yahoo.com

**Vice President**  
Robert Kosick  
155 Camellia Dr  
Leesburg FL 34788-2610  
828-638-1442  
kosicks@hotmail.com

**Treasurer**  
Keith Rivard  
160 Tommotley Dr  
Loudon TN 37774-2120  
865-388-2478  
kmrivard@gmail.com

**Secretary**  
Mario Lombardi  
231 Mitchell G Dr  
Tewksbury MA 01876-2184  
978-851-4334  
lombardi00@aol.com

**Webmaster/Newsletter**  
Dave Schantz  
29 Wood Run Cir  
Rochester NY 14612-2271  
585-723-0760  
daveschantz@yahoo.com

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

April 2024  
Volume 24 Issue 4

The "Sea Stories" that I ask for each month are an important part of being able to put a newsletter together. The feedback I'm getting is that you enjoying getting them more regularly than you have in the past, ...and I don't mind putting them together as the newsletter is a way of keeping in touch and passing along information about our shipmates. A special thanks to those who have contributed one or more ..but your help is needed for future issues. Just a few paragraphs on something you experiences while on Active Duty, how you got assigned to wherever you got assigned,, something about the camaraderie, an few paragraphs on what the Operations, Engineering, Staff Divisions do. A paragraph or two on what went on in the ward room, the gallery, etc.

This month's sea stories were contributed by Thom Bailey SK3 S-1 Div 62-64 and Carl McCullough CTR3 F-4 Div 71-73. Both tell about their coming aboard the Springfield and are quite interesting and different. Next month I hope to feature one contributed by Captain Benny Hornsby which I'm sure you will enjoy.

In addition to the Sea Stories, this month tells more about the upcoming reunion about which you should have received a newsletter from Barry Probst, President of US 6th Fleet in Villefranche-sur-Mer Association. A few were returned as a result of having the wrong address. If you did not received one, please send an email with your new address so we can avoid your not getting mail in the future.

Please note, as explained on page 2 of this newsletter, that this reunion is in conjunction with that of Villefranche-sur-Mer Association Reunion but we are a vital part of it and in addition to reunioning as part of the planned activities, we will have two "USS Springfield Happy Hours. Registration for these is needed so we plan for the number planning to attend. A registration form is included below. Please send this in if you are coming to the reunion.

Thank you

Dave Schantz. President

## USS SPRINGFIELD MEMBERSHIP

It's time for dues payments. Annual membership is \$20. Life Membership is \$100.

Thank you to new 2024 Annual members Walter Anderson ETN3 OE Div 65-67, Allen Butterfass PN3 X Div 62-63, Bruce Peltzer SN X Div 72-74 & LCDR Barry Pines Dental 62-63

Dues are needed for the Bluejackets ongoing expenses. While we are a not-for-profit-all-volunteer organization, we still have expenses to meet in keeping our organization viable. Your support is appreciated to the max.

Please make your checks payable to: USS Springfield Bluejackets Inc. and mail to: Keith Rivard-Treasurer , 160 Tommotley Dr, Loudon, TN 37774-2120 or call 865 388-2478 to charge.

(If you are in touch with shipmates not currently on our roster, your help in doing so as well would be great.)

## IN REMEMBRANCE



Since we have learned of no new shipmates being deceased but wish to remember those shipmates who have passed, a donation was made to the Marianist Missions for a Perpetual Membership in the MARIANIST MISSION ALLIANCE who will share Masses, Prayers, and Good Works for our USS Springfield Shipmates.

### In this Issue

- President's Corner
- USS Springfield Membership
- In Remembrance
- Birthday Greetings
- 2024 Reunion Details
- Happy Hour Registration
- Sea Stories
- 2024 Reunion (cont.)
- Ship Store

Please send any additions, corrections or questions to Dave Schantz at the address or email above

## **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**



**April:** Richard Bennett CPL Mar Det 68-70, Carter Cincotta SN N Div 60-62, James Dillabough SN OL Div 63-65, Floyd Edwards RM3 OI Div 60-62, YNC Allan Fitzwater YN3 XX,ENG Div 72-74, LCDR Lee Fortier CWO2 Supply Div 69-72, Robert Hill BMSN 3RD Div 65-68, Ray Kehoe ICC E Div 65-67, Howard Ruscin EM3 E Div 71-72, Larry Shorts RM2 OR Div 65-67, Brent Sponsler EM2 E Div 70-72, Thomas Watts YN2 OI Div 68-69, Michel Williams BM3 1ST Div 68-70,& Rod Yacobucci RD2 OI Div 66-68

Did we miss your birthday? Make sure we include you so we can wish you HAPPY BIRTHDAY in future issues. Let us know when it is and we will be sure to do so!

## **2024 USS SPRINGFIELD BLUEJACKETS REUNION**

The 2024 Reunion is being held in conjunction with **The US NAVY & Villefranche-sur-Mer Reunion** from **September 12-15 in Buffalo, NY.**

Our original thinking was to have our own reunion in Buffalo, but on hearing that Barry Probst, President of US 6th Fleet in Villefranche-sur-Mer Association was in the process of planning a reunion for the US 6th Fleet in Villefranche-sur-Mer Association, we decided to join him in the planning and participating in this reunion, at **The M Hotel, 2040 Walden Avenue Buffalo, NY** and a full weekend of remembrances and fun tours along with the unveiling of a permanent exhibit aboard the USS Little Rock is planned.

Activities for the weekend include:

**Thursday, September 12th 1-5 PM** Welcome Aboard Registration **7-9 PM** Welcome Reception with Entertainment by the Red Blazer Men's Chorus in the Cleveland Room

**Friday September 13th** Complimentary Breakfast followed by a tour of Niagara Falls State Park from 9AM to 3 PM.

**4-6 PM** Happy Hour for USS Springfield Shipmates  
**6 PM** Dinner in the Cleveland/Filmore Room with entertainment by Buffalo Swing and Jazz

**Saturday September 14th** Complimentary Breakfast followed by Shuttle Service between **9AM and 3PM** to the **Buffalo and Erie County Military Park** where you can tour the **USS Little Rock,**



the **USS Sullivans** and the **USS Croaker** and attend the unveiling of a historical timeline depicting the partnerships of the U.S. and French Navies from 1777 to present. at **11 AM.**

**4-6 PM** Happy Hour for USS Springfield Shipmates  
**6 PM-11 PM** Gala Dinner in the Cleveland/Filmore Room.

**Sunday September 15th** Complimentary Breakfast Farewells and Goodbyes!

A full newsletter of the reunion and a registration for are available at <https://ussspringfield.org/2024reunion.pdf>

Since this a reunion that involves shipmates from a number of different ships including the USS Little Rock, the USS Des Moines, the USS Salem, the USS Newport News and the USS Boston, it will provide an opportunity to meet with and share stories with these other shipmates.

***Understandably, not all Springfield Shipmates were aboard the ship when it was in Villefranche, but our two happy hours and many other opportunities will exist to share time with Springfield Shipmates.***

Reserving a room as early as possible is recommended.

**Call The M Hotel today (888-216-8447) and use code 0799AFC770 or identify yourself and as a member of the 6th Fleet in VSM reunion group.**



### **HAPPY HOUR REGISTRATION:**

Two USS Springfield Happy Hours will be held during the 2024 reunion. Please fill out the following form and mail it along with payment to Keith Rivard, Treasurer 160 Tommotley Dr Loudon TN 37774-2120.

# Attending Friday: \_\_\_\_\_ # Attending Saturday: \_\_\_\_\_

Names: Shipmate: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest/Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues (if not currently paid or a life member): \$20 \$ 20.00

Happy Hour (Friday, Sept 13, 2024. 4-6 PM Includes two Drinks) # \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Happy Hour (Saturday, Sept 14, 2024. 4-6 PM Includes two Drinks) # \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If attending and not wishing to order drinks, enter 0 for the # but do send in this form. Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## SEA STORIES

Thom Bailey SK3 S-1 Div 62-64 tells this story about a “3 Storekeepers journey to the USS Springfield (CLG-7) in mid November 1962.”



Thom first flew to the transit base in Naples, Italy, then several days later boarded a plane,

but didn't notice the hook on the bottom of the plane.

After several hours Thom started seeing this speck on the ocean below, and then the plane went spiraling down and landed on the USS Roosevelt (CVA-42), with the arresting gear.

Thom writes “At this point I was alone, I spent the night in the quarters right up for the lower hanger bay, so for several hours I could hear the arresting wire scraping the deck above me, I was bunking with what I call the plane pushers or the guys in the orange suits.

Next morning, I went to one of the crew's ward room where the other two storekeepers joined me.

All 3 of us boarded a helicopter, we were strapped in and took off looking right down on the flight deck ( the brown shoes were having a little fun)

So, while we were flying on the helicopter, they opened the bomb bay doors and sent our sea bags down to the fantail of the USS Barry (DD-933), the DD was going about 30 knots and there was water splashing onto the fantail. I think a chief and another sailor was on deck catching our sea bags.



The other two storekeepers said, Thom you go next! So, I put my foot in the stirrup and was caught at the bottom safely as were the other 2 storekeepers.

We slept on the Barry that night and had a great breakfast in the morning.

At the time the Springfield was hiding in a Greek harbor, they were playing war games with other country's ships.

The destroyer lowered a boat and we boarded her for a ride to the Springfield, I remember the water was like glass. The Springfield had the ladder down.

The 3 of us hoisted our sea bags on our shoulders and went up the ladder, here is the strange thing, the boatswain mate on watch whistled us aboard and put the following message

through the PA system that “3 new storekeepers were boarding the ship!”

During my duty on the Springfield, had a storeroom for a time, but I ended up in the S-2 division keeping the records for the commissary Dept. The XO liked to come by our office and see how much the food was costing per man per day.

A little extra detail, we were in a Typhoon on one of our missions, early in the enlistment and the engineers onboard determined that we should have rolled over, because of the weight of our missile house. This is when I had a storeroom and was part of Div-1, well we ended up in Toulon, France. They removed the skin of the ship just below my storeroom and proceeded to load long steel beams into the bilge to offset the weight of the missile house.”

---

...and Carl McCullough CTR3 F-4 Div 71-73 tells “My Gaeta Story “

In 1971 I got assigned to the flag division on the USS Springfield right out Communication Technician training in Pensacola Florida. After sitting idle in Naples for a week waiting for her to return to port I was driven up to Gaeta in a Navy van. I still remember as we passed thru Formia the sight of Gaeta and her Harbor. It was a breathtaking view that I'll never forget. After a few weeks, I was settled in on the ship and my workplace. Not long after I was aboard, another new member to our division and I decided to share an apartment together in town. We settled in at a place not far from the rec center. It was brand new and the rent was reasonable.



Our two Italian landlords did not speak English but treated us like family. So many times there was a knock at the door and a freshly made pasta dish was given to us to enjoy. In time I met their nephew Ivo who was the same age as me and we became close friends. Our friendship goes on today 50 some years later and I have been back to Gaeta to see him 6 times. The town is almost as I remember it just a lot busier and more congested. I have met many of the sailors from the Mt Whitney which is now the flagship that's home ported there. The locals are still as friendly and welcoming as they were in the 70's. On my first trip back in 2008 my friend Ivo took me to see his 2 Aunts who were still living at that point and got to thank them for their hospitality all those years

# USS SPRINGFIELD

## PLANNED EXHIBIT ABOARD THE USS LITTLE ROCK

For a donation of \$100 or more your name or the name of a loved one, your ship's name and the dates served aboard will be placed on a "Plankowners" plaque. This exhibit that will be unveiled on September 14, 2024 during the U.S. 6th Fleet in Villefranche-sur-Mer Reunion. plaque will be placed next to the permanent

BARRY L. PROBST  
U.S.S. SPRINGFIELD, CLG-7  
1965-1967

Make checks payable to: US 6th Fleet in Villefranche-sur-Mer Assn. and send your donation with the following information to US 6th Fleet in Villefranche-sur-Mer Assn. PO Box 7445 Brockton, MA 02303-7445.

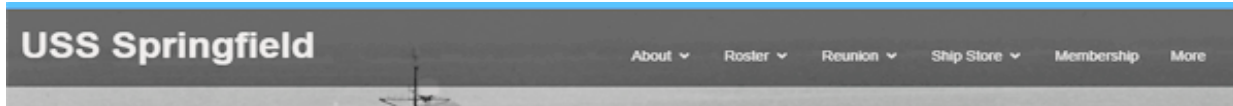
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Aboard: \_\_\_\_\_ Ship: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_



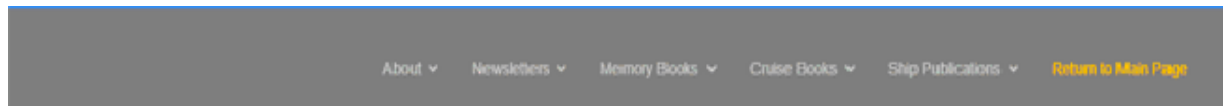
## USS SPRINGFIELD WEB PAGE CHANGES

A change has been made to the web page in an attempt to make it easier to navigate, especially when wishing to view such things as the different ship's publications, the cruise books, the memory books, the ship's history and such other things. To do so simply click on the "More" menu item found on the main page.

Doing so will result in opening up a second page with the menus for accessing these other items.



To return to the main menu, simply use the "Return to Main Page" menu item.



<https://usspringfield.org>

## SHIP STORE

Now on sale in the USS Springfield Ship Store are Coffee Mugs, USS Springfield Window Stickers, Ball Caps and more. Visit our Ship Store on-line at <https://store16038547.company.site> or [usspringfield.org](https://usspringfield.org) or if you don't have access to the internet call Keith Rivard (865-388-2478). All proceeds go to support the USS Springfield Bluejackets, Inc. (Also—Please let us know if you are looking for something specific and are unable to find it.)  
Make checks payable to USS Springfield Bluejackets and mail to:

Keith Rivard-Treasurer 160 Tommotley Dr Loudon, TN 37774

