



USS SPRINGFIELD

Newsletter

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



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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

May 2024
Volume 24 Issue 5

A big thank you to CL-66 Shipmate Gerry Bailey SM3C C Div 45-46 and to Captain Benny Hornsby RD2 OI Div 60-63 for this month's "Sea Stories". Gerry came aboard the Springfield after serving on the USS South Dakota during the battles of Leyte Gulf and Okinawa and the surrender of Japan on the USS Missouri. Captain Hornsby spent 3 years on the Springfield and left as an RD2 in OI Division before going on to spend 36 years on active duty in the Navy. With his permission, included in this newsletter is a part of an article *{THE VIEW FROM THE BACK ROW} EATING AROUND THE WORLD* by Captain Hornsby. To read the entire article and others go to <https://www.hubcityspokes.com> and search for Benny Hornsby.

Of course more "Sea Stories" are needed for future issues, so please take a few minutes to put a few paragraphs together sharing your story.

If you haven't already sent in your reservation for the Happy Hours that we will be having during the 2024 Reunion, please do as soon as you are able to do so or at least let us know that you are

USS SPRINGFIELD MEMBERSHIP

Welcome aboard new Annual Member Dee Clayton Pollard CT2 FLAG Div 60-62

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

A big thank you to Life Member Michael Hughes FN BOAT FN Div 70-72 for his generous donation and to our new Life Member Larry Shorts RM2 OR Div 65-67

Thank you to new 2024 Annual members Leroy Wolf MM2 M Div 61-61, Dee Clayton Pollard CT2 FLAG Div 60-62, Bob Rone FTM2 FOX Div 64-64

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

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.

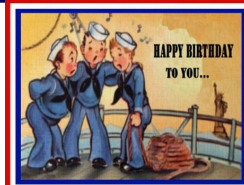
Please make your checks payable to: USS Springfield Bluejackets Inc. and mail to: Keith Rivard-Treasurer, 160 Tommotley Dr, Loudon, TN 37774-2120 or call 865 388-2478 to charge.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Our Deepest Sympathies and Prayers are with the Family and Friends of the Shipmates we learned to be deceased since our last newsletter who include: Ronald Fenton CS3 S-2 Div 60-62, Robert Kemmerer ET2 OE Div 60-62, Leland Leete* MOMM3C A Div 44-46, Maurice Aubut FN A Div 60-62 (* CL66 WWII Shipmate)



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS



MAY: Robert Ferris* F1C E Div 45-46, RADM John W. Bitoff FIRST LT 61-63, MSC Sid Cohen CS3 S-2 Div 69-72, David Schantz SK3 S-1 Div 60-62, Frank Rychlik SGT MAR DET 66-69, Greg Cover STG2 OST 67-71, William Robert Reed RD2 OI Div 60-62, David Wright EN2 A Div 63-67, Jim Herring BT1 B Div 62-64, Larry Rosenberg SN 1ST Div 63-65, Vinney Pollina LI2 X Div 66-68, Donald Toland HM3 H Div 64-66, Nelson Chegezy IC2 E Div 65-68, Robert J. Schaible EM3 Div E&B 62-64, Ted Young YN2 STAFF 60-62, Thomas Waggener BM3 BOAT Div 69-72, Tom Dion BT2 B Div 63-66, Wallace F. Malinowski PM3 R Div 60-62, Juan M. Montano* BM1 5TH Div 47-49 (* CL66 WWII Shipmates)

HAPPY HOUR REGISTRATION:



Cheers!



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. (Make checks out to "USS Springfield Bluejackets Inc" . If you wish to charge the amount call Keith at 865 388-2478)

NOTE: You can now register for the Happy Line on-line at <https://store16038547.company.site/Reunion-Happy-Hour-p648558062> or under the Ship Store menu item of the web page. Please register, even if you do not plan to have drinks.

Attending Friday: _____ # Attending Saturday: _____

Names: Shipmate: _____ Guest/Spouse: _____

Annual DUES (if not currently paid or a life member):	\$20.00	\$ 20.00
Happy Hour (Friday, Sept 13, 2024. 4-6 PM Includes one drink)	# _____ X \$10.00	= \$ _____
Happy Hour (Saturday, Sept 14, 2024. 4-6 PM Includes one drink)	# _____ X \$10.00	= \$ _____
Happy Hour (Friday, Sept 13, 2024. 4-6 PM Includes no drink)	# _____ X \$0	= \$ 0.00
Happy Hour (Saturday, Sept 14, 2024. 4-6 PM Includes no drink)	# _____ X \$0	= \$ 0.00

Please respond if attending even if not planning to have drinks. Thank you. **Total \$ _____**

Please note: Your help is needed for our reunion planning of the USS Springfield part of it. Please respond by mail or email to let us know if you will be attending the reunion. Thank you.

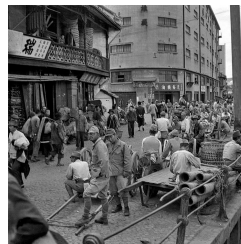
SEA STORIES

CL-66 Shipmate Gerry Bailey SM3C C Div 45-46 writes-

"I was 17, soon to be 18 and draft eligible when I enlisted in the Navy and as most new enlistees, I was sent to Boot Camp in San Diego. After Boot Camp, I went to Signalman School in Bainbridge MD, afterwards took a troop ship to the Philippines and then went aboard the USS South Dakota BB-57 as a Signalman. Since the muzzles of the 5 inch anti-aircraft-twin-mounts were even with the signal bridge and the 20 mm guns, crewed by Marines were just aft of the port and starboard flag bags it was deafening to say the least, and hence the beginning of my hearing problem.



While aboard the South Dakota we took part in the invasions of Leyte, Luzon, joined in on the bombarding of Okinawa. The South Dakota shelled targets in the Japanese Home Islands during the final acts of the Pacific War, and was present in Tokyo Bay during the Formal Surrender of Japan and the end of WWII. While in Tokyo Bay, we got to witness the surrender ceremony that took place aboard the USS Missouri in September 1945.



was super cold.

Two weeks later I was transferred to The USS Springfield, CL66 which became the 7th Fleet flagship. We made two calls in other Japanese ports, then went to China where we visited Shanghai and Tsingtau and I took a rickshaw ride to the Great Wall of China. We also went to Korea where it

The Springfield returned to Long Beach, CA in the Spring of 1946 Much of the fleet was there as was another light cruiser, the CL90-

Astoria. The Astoria was going to go up the Columbia River to attend the Rose Festival at Portland and needed a signalman. Guess what. I took transfer just because of the trip and got to enjoy the Rose Festival.



My number came up shortly there after and was discharged at the separation center at Bremerton, WA in June 1946.

It was an interesting life for a few years that I wouldn't want to do again. "

SEA STORIES Continued

EATING AROUND THE WORLD

By BENNY HORNSBY

When your life has been one big travelogue, in my case, over 100 countries visited courtesy of Uncle Sam, what do you really remember when the ships are tied to the pier, the planes are grounded, and the wheels finally stop turning?

Was it that “near miss” in Vietnam? That typhoon in the South Pacific that took my buddy when he went to dump trash? Maybe that dark-eyed girl in Athens who proposed to me in a pastry shop? No, I think it was really that bouillabaisse in Marseille, that paella and sangria in Barcelona, that couscous in Casablanca, or even that “balut” in Manila. If I have a claim to fame, it’s that I ate my way around the world. After my lifetime of Navy travel, people often ask, “What was your favorite country overseas?” The second question, invariable, is, “What was your favorite food?” That’s when I sit back, close my eyes, and remember. What often comes to my mind?

If you pin me down, I guess my favorite country is France, and my favorite food is French.

During the three years I lived in France, spending most of my time aboard the USS Springfield, on the Mediterranean coast from the Italian border as far west as Toulon, where one of my ships spent six months in a French Navy shipyard. That was my first introduction to French food as



our galley was down, and we ate with the French sailors ashore. It was in their chow hall that I fell in love with my favorite sandwich: a cold,

sliced and salted, hard-boiled egg on a buttered croissant. We also had steak and eggs for breakfast most mornings. The French know how to eat. During that time, the quaint little villages along the Riviera, now expensive, tourist resorts, were populated with working fishermen, and the dockside mom and pop restaurants featuring the catch of the day and not much else. I learned two valuable lessons about eating early on in France: “simple” is usually better and eat with the blue-collar locals - stay out of the tourist traps.

I still faithfully study the French language on the computer every day. In fact, I went back to Villefranche-sur-Mer for a month-long language immersion school a few years ago, and I held my own in class. I must admit, however, that the highlight of my school day was the noon meal, prepared in-house by the school’s chef. The only downside was that the instructors sat at the student’s tables and quizzed us about the French news of the day. No English was ever permitted on the premises.

About that girl in the Greek pastry shop. True story. When I told my buddies on the ship about it, they accused me of being drunk. Whenever we pulled into a Greek port, the Old Man would always get on the loudspeaker and warn the crew about drinking the Greek’s favorite alcoholic beverage, ouzo. Clear in color, it’s made from grapes and has a strong anise taste. To be called “ouzo,” by Greek law, the alcohol content must be at least 50 percent. The captain would always say: “Stay away from it! It’s too strong! They feed it to their children, but you can’t handle it! It will make you lame,



blind, and crazy!” So, naturally, what’s the first thing the sailors would order in the first bar they hit ashore? Ouzo. And, sure enough. It made many of them lame, blind, and crazy. You didn’t want to have Shore Patrol or especially the quarter-deck watch when everyone started coming back to the ship, because it was something to see.

I never fit the stereotype of a rambunctious, drinking sailor. I wanted to become an officer, so I kept my nose clean, stayed out of bars, and minded my own business. I guess I was a nerd. Anyway, when I was about 18, I walked into a pastry shop in downtown Athens, and it seemed to cause an uproar with the girls, about my age, behind the counter. You always had to wear your uniform ashore in those days (“Crackerjacks”). Finally, one of them, the dark-eyed one, came to my table, where



I was eating my pastry and, giggling, handed me a note, and then ran back behind the counter. I didn’t know what to think, so I looked at it for a minute, and then opened it to read, in a girl’s careful handwriting: “Will you marry me?” I didn’t know what to say; so I quietly finished my pastry, smiled at the girls, and

left. Reflecting later, I decided it was probably about the only English they knew, and just their way of saying “hello.”

Believe it or not, I had a very similar experience a year or so later at a dance in Beirut, Lebanon, put on for embassy kids by the American Embassy. About twenty of us sailors who were considered to be “trustworthy” were “volunteered” to attend the dance held at the American University.

Looking back, one can’t help but miss those quieter, simpler days – when pretty girls felt free to pass innocent notes; when sailors could wear their uniforms ashore in foreign ports without fear of being killed by terrorists; when you could be “sent” to a dance because you had a reputation as a “good” guy and could be trusted not to act a fool. Let’s do it again.

Benny Hornsby of Oak Grove is a retired U.S. Navy captain. Visit his website, bennyhornsby.com, or email him: villefranche60@yahoo.com

2024 USS SPRINGFIELD BLUEJACKETS REUNION

Please note: The 2024 Reunion is being held in conjunction with The US NAVY & Villefranche-sur-Mer Reunion from September 12-15 in Buffalo, NY. 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. A full listing of the weekend events are included in the newsletter of the reunion. You should have received this in the mail but the registration form and Newsletter are available at <https://usspringfield.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 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.

Please let us know if you are planning to attend the Happy Hour whether you plan to have drinks or not. Thank you.

IMPORTANT

Reserving a room as early as possible is recommended.

Call The M Hotel today (888-216-8447) or directly at 716-681-2400, when prompted press #3 and use code 0799AFC770 or identify yourself and as a member of the 6th Fleet in VSM reunion group.

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 & Guests

6 PM-11 PM Gala Dinner in the Cleveland/Filmore Room.

Sunday September 15th Complimentary Breakfast Farewells and Goodbyes!



**RED BLAZER
MEN'S CHORUS**

The Red Blazer Men's Chorus is a group of men who love to sing. We perform our choral music for the Western New York community and beyond.

We are in our 75th season and strive to make great choral music for years to come.

SHIP STORE

Now on sale in the USS Springfield Ship Store are Coffee Mugs, USS Springfield Window Stickers, Polo Shirts, Ball Caps and more. Visit our Ship Store on-line at <https://store16038547.company.site> or 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

