



# USS Springfield- Summer 2023 Newsletter



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

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Its been a busy four months and with Spring and Summer upon us, there doesn't seem to be any let up. As a result, this will be the last newsletter for a few months. In the interim, your help is needed to suggest and generate news worthy items for our newsletter. Some of the items that I expect will continue to be included are: 1. a request for your support by paying dues, making a donation or purchasing items from the Ship Store.; 2. Notifications of our Shipmates who are no longer with us. (This month, the list is a bit longer than we might expect as our Vice President, Bob Kosick called many shipmates that we haven't heard from in while.), and; 3. Birthday celebrations for those we have a birth date for. Send us your Birth Date to be included in future issues.

Like many of us, I was on board for 2 years and in my case from 60-62. I will try to be creative with things I know about during my time aboard, but could use your help in telling about those times you were aboard and sharing some of your experiences. If you are not up to writing, give a call and we can explore some ideas. (585) 723-0760/ daveschantz@yahoo.com

A few things that I would like to learn more about are: 1. the times when our ship was not in the Med as the 6th Fleet Flag Ship; 2. Life aboard the ship as part of the Marine Detachment.; 3 Being stationed aboard or ashore as part of the Flag Staff; 4. Experiences while home-ported at Gaeta, Italy; 5. Your memories of times aboard or on liberty.

## USS SPRINGFIELD MEMBERSHIP/MEMBERSHIP DUES

Thanks to Walter Lewis SN 2ND/OL Div 59-62, Angelo Lenetti SM3 F-2 Div 60-62, Pete Karantonis SK3 S-1 Div 60-62 and Jerome Delaportas, IC3 E Div 69-71 for their support in paying their Annual Dues. And to Wayne Lane SN S3 Div 60-61 supporting us with a Life Membership. Wayne is also new to our organization

As indicated in the last several newsletter, the 2023 Annual Dues are due. Dues are needed for the Blue-jackets 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. .

## WELCOME ABOARD

Richard Gagner ETR3 OE Div 66-69, Larry Shorts RM2 OR Div 65-67 and Wayne Lane SN S3 Div 60-61 joined our ranks and are now the latest additions to the on-line roster.

It's good to see shipmates are finding us. If you know of shipmates, that are not now on our roster, Ask them to drop us a note, give us a call or fill out the membership form on our web page.

## STAYING IN TOUCH

As indicated in prior issues, we are trying our best to keep our communication open, stay in touch with as many shipmates as we can and keep our mailing costs down. To this end we had a list of 266 shipmates that we lost touch with. After trying to contact these shipmates several times by mail, and getting no response, Bob Kosick, our Vice President took on the task calling. As a result, we are now back in touch with 55 of our shipmates and learned of a number who are deceased. Unfortunately, many of the phone numbers were no longer in service or the shipmates did not respond to messages that Bob left. A big thank you to Bob for doing this. It helps greatly in our efforts to keep our data base and on-line roster up to date and our mailing costs in check.

Along these lines, if you have a change of address or phone number, your letting us know will be greatly appreciated. An email or phone call to any of the officers is all that is needed.

Thank You

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## Villefranche-sur-mer FROM HOME PORT to CRUISE PORT

From 1948 until February 1966 until French President Charles de Gaulle withdrew France from NATO and required U.S. forces to leave, the United States Navy has called Villefranche the home port of the U.S. 6th Fleet and beginning in December 1960, the flagship of the Commander Sixth Fleet rotated between USS Springfield and USS Little Rock.

Since the 1980s Villefranche has been used by cruise ships and is the most visited cruise ship port-of-call in France. How fortunate we were to have been able to enjoy having it as our home port.



Villefranche in 1962



David Barnes, (Howard) Pellie Logsdon, Dave Schantz, Joe Woody and Bill Schillinger on the 02-Level 1962



Howard (Pellie) Logsdon, John Reichle, Walter Bunker and Dave Schantz on Liberty in Nice



Villefranche Now

Of course, Villefranche isn't the only port of call that was visited by the Springfield during its times as the 6th Fleet Flagship that has been quiet we experienced. Others that I am aware of from conversations with friends who have been on Med cruises are Dubrovnik, Split, Mykonos, Athens, Malta, Beirut. Palma de Mallorca, Barcelona and many more. My wife and I personally revisited Malaga and Gibraltar and saw the drastic changes in those. Especially in Malaga where there was no longer a street with a string of restaurants and horse drawn carriages. What were your favorite ports of call and your memories from them?

## The BROOKLYN NAVY YARD and MORE

I had a nice conversation with Larry Rosenberg, BMSN 1st Div 63-65 about his time aboard the Springfield. Larry, a native of Brooklyn lived near the yard and after finishing boot camp in August of 63, reported to the Brooklyn Navy Yard before getting his orders to join the USS Springfield which just happened to be there as well. Larry tells of the ship's leaving for GITMO shortly after his reporting aboard for the ship's "Shake Down Cruise" following its time in Brooklyn. As Larry tells it, they followed the normal routine of getting ammo aboard, doing firing exercises in the area around GITMO and visiting a variety of ports in the Caribbean and he had the experience of being aboard when they got hit with heavy seas and gale force winds. (Probably good preparation for his later duty assignments aboard a few destroyers.)

Much like the ship did in 1960 when I went aboard, our ship left for the Med in December to assume (or in his case reassume) the 6th Fleet Flag. As Larry tells it though, in '63 the ship left the Brooklyn Navy Yard with some of the yard crew aboard who were needed to finish up some of the work still needed. We never do know what lies ahead, do we? Larry seems to think the Captain was in a bit of a hurry to relieve the Little Rock. He does indicate though, that he enjoyed his time aboard the Springfield and has good memories of it.

We both were assigned to the Springfield from the Brooklyn Navy Yard, once a very active naval port and dry dock. I remember the Springfield arriving in Brooklyn in early 63. At the time I was a student at Long Island University's Brooklyn Campus and managed to visit it at that time. My guess is that it remained there until December of 63 while the Navy Yard was still in full operation. In 1964, the Department of Defense announced that the Shipyard would be closing. (Were you there?)

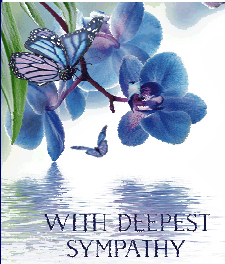
Now, no longer a shipyard, the Brooklyn Navy Yard now is home to several hundred businesses, and manufacturing complexes, a Navy Hospital, a Ship Yard museum, a "Wegman's Supermarket" (which has its roots here in Rochester, NY) and the Brooklyn Grange Rooftop Farm which was co-founded by my Cousin's Daughter Gwen Schantz in 2010. It is also now a very upscale residential area. So much for the Brooklyn Navy Yard that we once knew. Perhaps you have a story about it you would like to share? Please do.

## WHAT'S YOUR STORY

... And would you be willing to share it in a future newsletter?

Call, write or email Dave Schantz, Bob Kosick or Keith Rivard.

## TAPS



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: Paul Rimarcik IC1 E Div 72-74, R.B. Zacarias MS1 S5 Div 72-74, John A. Martin SN 4th Div 60-62, Grady Campbell F1C M Div 44-46, Bob Rhodes FTM2 Fox Div 62-64, John Phillips CWO3 R Div 66-68, Rodger D. Myers RM2 F2 Div 64-66, Norbert Piepho IC2 E Div 66-68, Patrick J. Coady SF3 R Div 63-66, James Overton CS2 S2 Div 60-62, John Wright PFC MarDet 70-71, Richard Startek EM2 E Div 60-62, Donald Peterson SN 4th Div 60-62, Robert Potter PFC MarDet 60-62, Dan Yaw GMG3 G Div 61-62, Ken Wolf LCDR 3rd Div 64-66, Robert Waite SF2 R Div 59-60, Stephen Vosa MM2 A Div 62-64, Tom Meadows YN3 Flag Staff 60-62,



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May: Sid Cohen CS3 S2 Div 69-72, James Crider SH1 S3 Div 65-66, Tom Dion BT2 B Div 63-66, Leroy Emmerich STG2 OI Div 60-62, Robert Ferris FIC E Div 45-46, Frank Rychlik SGT Mar Det 66-69, David Schantz SK3 S1 Div 60-62, Thomas Waggener BM3 Boat Div, Ted Young YN2 Flag 60-62. (Note: Shipmate Robert Ferris is 96 this month.)



June: Capt William T Crawford Commanding Officer 73-74, Donald Banks SN FT Div 63-65, Richard Bencic PC3 X Div 65-70, Gary Coyne RD3 OI Div 67-68, Bill Crowe LT DCA Div 63-65, LCDR Robert Harris CWO2 X Div 72-74, Gene Herring SK3 S1 Div 70-72, Patrick Johnson RD3 OI Div 60-62, Carl Long MM1 M&B Div(s) 60-62, Jerome McCloskey RD3 OI Div 62-64, Juan Montano BM1 5th Div 47-49, Bill Schoen RD2 OI Div 66-69, Orrin Sprague SN OI Div 60-62, Jack Weston RM2 OR Div 63-66 (Note: Capt Crawford, the last Commanding Officer of the Springfield will be 92 in June.)

July: Frank Bowman FN Boat Div 70-71, Kevin Doyle LTJG Flag Ops 71-74, Jake Fitzgerald GMG3 G Div 68-72, John Harrison BM3 3rd Div 60-62, Donald Holmes RM3 67-69, Michael Potvin STG2 OSD Div 70-73, Gary Powell BT3 B Div 64-66, Charles Richardson RM3 OR Div 60-62, Juan Rivera 63-65, Michael Walters YN2 Flag Staff 71-72, David Weber BMSN Boat Div 64-66, Louis Zbranek 60-63

August: Dennis Dillon SH3 S3 Div 70-72, Wayne Lane SN S3 Div 60-61, Rene Letourneau ENFN A Div 60-63, Dale Prince FN M Div 68-70.

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!

## SHIP STORE

Now on sale in the USS Springfield Ship Store are a new Polo Shirt and T-Shirt, Coffee Mugs, USS Springfield Window Stickers, Ball Caps and more.



Visit our Ship Store on-line at <https://store16038547.company.site> 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.

## 2023 REUNION

Plans are set for our 2023 Reunion Cruise aboard the Carnival Conquest. We now have 49 Shipmates, Spouses and Guests booked for what promises to be a unique reunion. If this is the first time you are reading this, because we only recently reconnected with you the information is included below. If you choose to join us and need to make a reservation call the Cruise Planning Department, 866-721-322 M-F 9:00 AM — 5:00 PM and ask to be booked with the USS Springfield Bluejackets Group Booking Number: L2D9D7 and IMPORTANT—ask for the 6PM dinner seating with the Bluejackets.





**"It is, in a way, an odd thing to honor those who died in defense of our country, in defense of us, in wars far away. The imagination plays a trick. We see these soldiers in our mind as old and wise. We see them as something like the Founding Fathers, grave and gray haired. But most of them were boys when they died, and they gave up two lives—the one they were living and the one they would have lived. When they died, they gave up their chance to be husbands and fathers and grandfathers. They gave up their chance to be revered old men. They gave up everything for our country, for us. And all we can do is remember."**

*President Ronald Reagan*

**"On Memorial Day, we pause in solemn gratitude to pay tribute to the brave patriots who laid down their lives defending peace and freedom while in military service to our great Nation. We set aside this day to honor their sacrifice and to remind all Americans of the tremendous price of our precious liberty."**

*President Donald J. Trump*

**As we Celebrate Memorial Day, let us take time to Remember our fellow sailors, marines, shipmates and all who have served!**

## USS SPRINGFIELD CLG66 CLG7 SSN761

