



USS SPRINGFIELD

Newsletter

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



December, 2023
Volume 23 Issue 7

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

Member At-Large
Dennis Sherwood
6524 Kurtz Ln
Eden Prairie MN 55346-1610
(952) 239-9954
dennis@hometechniques.com

In this Issue

- President's Corner
- USS Springfield Membership
- In Remembrance
- Birthday Greetings
- 2023 Reunion
- Sea Stories
- 2024 Reunion
- Ship Store

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

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This month, Dennis Sherwood ETR3 OE Div 65-67 shares a story of the "Palomares incident". I believe most of us remember when a nuclear bomb was dropped in the Med off the coast of Spain. Dennis's story gives us more detail on that happening.

What's your story? How great it would be if you will share one. Give a call, send a note or send an email.

Additionally, this month includes a recap of our 2023 Reunion aboard the Carnival Conquest Cruise ship. It certainly was a first for one of the USS Springfield Bluejackets reunions and definitely consideration will be given to having another sometime in the future.

In 2024 we plan to meet in Buffalo, NY, home of the "Buffalo Naval & Military Park" and our sister ship, the USS Little Rock CLG4. We will meet in conjunction with the Villefranche-Sur-Mer 6th Fleet Organization Sept 13-15, 2023. Mark your calendars.

Thank you.

USS SPRINGFIELD MEMBERSHIP

A big thank you to Life Member Don Kessler for his generous donation and to Wally Malinowski PM3 R Div 60-62 for his payment of Annual Dues

Welcome aboard to new life member James Schavone FTM3 Fox Div 65-66 and annual member Fred Schimmel FTM1 Fox Div 65-69

Welcome back Dominick Chiarello EM3 E Div 68-72 We lost contact Dominick for a bit but are now back in touch.

... Brent Sponsler EM2 E-Div 70-72 and Dan Brewer EM2 E Div 69-72 are taking action to contact shipmates to encourage them to come aboard. Through their efforts, we are able to make contact with over 40 shipmates to let them know more about the Bluejackets. Thank you Brent and Dan.

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

It's time again to be thinking of paying your Annual Dues or becoming a Life Member. If you pay now, your dues are good for all of 2024 as well. 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: (CL66) Mario Dianore BUG1C N Div & (CLG7) Laurence Kaltman RD2 OI Div 64-66, William Dentinger PN2, AD Div 59-60 and Robert Lawson. DK3 S-4 Div, 60-63

"Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world. A veteran does not have that problem." –Ronald Reagan

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
SHIPMATES!**



December: Marcus Agrinzones BM2 3 Div 63-67, Gary Barnhart CS3 S2 Div 69-73 Otto Jones DT3 H&D Div 63-65, Clifford Bergesen EM2 E Div 61-63, Donald Smith EM3 E Div 65-67, Roy Coleman ET1 OE Div 70-74, William Berlin FTG3 Fox Div 61-63, Richard Miles LTJG Supply 64-66, Leroy Wolf MM2 M Div 61-61, Allan Butterfass PN3 X Div 62-63, Generosa Balbuena SD2 S5 Div 65-70, Charles Volpe SH3 S3 Div 71-73 , Jesse Cook SSN761 ET2 OR Div 96-01

*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!*

2023 REUNION RECAP

From all appearances this year's reunion aboard the Carnival Conquest was a great success. We had 40 Shipmates, Spouse and Friends aboard and got to enjoy time together at Dinner each evening, during two planned Coffee Hours and on a hit-and-miss way at other times during the cruise. Since this was a first for having a reunion aboard a cruise ship, it was hard to predict what might be expected, but Carnival Cruise lines did a great job in helping putting things together, and the service was top notch.

During this 4 Day cruise, we made ports of call at both Key West and at Cozumel. In each case, rather than having a organized group tour, shipmates were free to take cruise ship shore excursions, avail themselves of the locals who offered tours of the area, use the hop-on hop-off trolleys in Key West or just walk as many things were within walking distance.

Being told that a must see in Key West was the Hemmingway House, my wife Toni along with Keith and Kathy Rivard made that our destination on leaving the ship. Along the way there, we came across Harry Truman's "Little White House" which was established as a Navy Base for Naval Officers and served as both a Vacation Home and a working White House .



Bob Anderson shares his thoughts on the cruise: -"Our reunion cruise was a real eye opener for both myself and my wife.

First we were taken back by the crowd on the ship -lines of people everywhere. We were married in Key West quite a few years ago and have been back several times That said we did not recognize the place New construction abounds. (Probably due to storms and Florida growth as well) Speaking of storms how many remember several we went through on the Springfield?



To us Cozumel was still Cozumel (sunshine, beach , bars , shopping and sightseeing.

I spoke with several shipmates that were aboard during the shakedown cruise to Cuba about riding out Hurricane Hugo? (as memory serves) I recall us going full speed forward but moving backwards and literally walking on the bulkhead! As I recall Springfield sustained some serious damage including loss of the Captain's Gig and vehicle.

The cruise was enjoyable and it was great to talk with shipmates that served after my departure in 1963.



...and on a personal note, unrelated to the reunion, as Bob Anderson talks about riding out Hurricane Hugo in 1963, I remember well when in November 1960 as the Springfield was making it's way from Villefranche to Barcelona we got hit by a terrific storm. I somehow, perhaps foolishly, made my way to the 02 level behind one of the stacks and watched the waves breaking over the bow during one of the biggest storms to hit the Mediterranean in years. It was a time I recall vividly.

SEA STORIES

Dennis Sherwood ETR3 OE Div 65-67 shares this story of the "Palomares incident".

"On 17 January 1966, a B52 and an Air Force KC-135

fuel tanker collided over Palomares, Spain along the eastern coast. It became known as the "Palomares incident". Four thermonuclear warheads fell from the B52 during the incident. None of the devices had detonated. Three fell on land and were quickly recovered by the United States Air Force.



The fourth fell into the sea. That's when the Air Force asked for the Navy's help in recovering the device. Com-SixthFt, aboard the USS Springfield CLG7, was contacted while we were at sea. It was immediately announced that we are diverting from our present course to Palomares, Spain to aid in recovering an "atomic bomb". This certainly got the crew very concerned. We arrived to join several other US ships. The warhead had not yet been located. There was also a Soviet submarine detected in the area that seemed to pose little threat. We spent a couple days there while the "brass" was discussing the situation.

We continued on our way, and left the USS Hoist (ARS-40) in command of the operation, and the confidence that the present resources were adequate to locate and recover the device. It wasn't until March that the warhead was located and recovered.

In 2000, the movie "Men of Honor" was released, starring Robert DeNiro and Cuba Gooding Jr. Gooding played CPO Carl Brashear, a real life diver who had to overcome racism from his superior (Robert DeNiro), and earn respect.

It was about the US Navy's diving team and was based on the real life events surrounding the Palomares incident. Brashear was serving aboard the USS Hoist that led the search and recovery effort for the US Air Force.

When the bomb was located and recovery operations began on 23 March, Brashear became instrumental in it's recovery by diving to the bomb and securing it for transport while evading the Soviet submarine.

Also, during the recovery operation, Brashear was severely injured when he put himself in harms way, saving the lives of Navy crewmen.

He later became a National hero and for his service in helping to retrieve the bomb, he was awarded the Navy & Marine Corps Medal, the highest award for non-



Master Chief
Master Diver
Carl Brashear

2024 REUNION

The 6th Fleet Villefranche-Sur-Mer organization is having their reunion in Buffalo NY near the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park where our sister ship the USS Little Rock is located on September 13,14,15 2024.

The Buffalo Naval Park is home to four decommissioned naval vessels: USS Little Rock, USS The Sullivans, USS Croaker and USS PTF-17. Visitors will experience exhibits and artifacts highlighting the U.S. military and a Monuments Garden honoring veterans and supporters from various conflicts and backgrounds.



Our current plan is to have our USS Springfield reunion with them. A tour of Niagara Falls on Friday and a Ceremony aboard the USS Little Rock on Saturday are being arranged. So for now, please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Your help in planning for the number of rooms we need would also be helpful. Please send an email . Call or drop a note to let us know if you have an interest in attending to either Dave Schantz (585) 723-0760 / daveschantz@yahoo.com or Keith Rivard (865)



USS SPRINGFIELD



Greetings from several of the countries with ports visited by the USS Springfield!
Included are France, Lebanon, Yugoslavia (now Croatia), Italy, Spain, Greece, Portugal,
Malta, Turkey, Corsica & Norway.

What other countries should we include? What port did you enjoy most?
Great memories from a time when many weren't as popular as they are today.

... and some post cards from a few of the ports. If you have post cards you would like to share, send or email
a scanned image of them to daveschantz@yahoo.com



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 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. Make checks payable to USS Springfield Bluejackets and mail to:

Keith Rivard-Treasurer 160 Tommotley Dr Loudon, TN 37774

