

Hell-O USS Guam LPH-9 Shipmate , Family and Friends,

Well here we are back from the 16th Annual reunion which was held in Norfolk,VA. What a great time we all had, we had a total of 44 in attendance with family and guest, a lot of new faces this year and some old faces we have not seen in awhile. We would like to THANK Bernie and Diane for a Great job they did on this years reunion. The bus tours started on Tuesday morning with the tour on the Navy Base, Wednesday the Navy waters which was September 11th we had a Police Patrol the entire way. Thursday was Board Meetings and elections. Then on Thursday night we had a Bingo game, what a night we had, with LOTS of laughs and fun, can't wait till next year. We play for fun and prizes NO money is taken in! Friday was the last bus tour into Virginia Beach and the Light Houses. Friday night was our group pictures and the Banquet with awards, door prizes, food and dancing. The traveling plaque was won by Casey Sluys from California (see you next year Casey). We would like to say Thanks to all the ladies for the help that they give in making our reunions successful, with their gifts and donations, Thank You All !!

We would like to Thank Steve Kronenberg for his donations of the USS GUAM plaques they were hand made by Steve himself . They were won by Al Getter and Richard Daggett, Who was very happy and honored to have won them. Once again THANKS Steve. Hope to see you in San Antonio next year.

We had the elections on Thursday and we have new Officers they are:

President::	John Coburn	1-410-798-7826
Vice President:	Bernie Brothers	1-757-427-1091
Treasurer:	Richard Daggett	1-573-735-4713
Secretary:	Al Getter	1-619-464-3103
Legal Adviser	Harvey Spinowitz	1-727-688-0320
Asst. Secretary	Harvey Spinowitz	

We wish them a successful year. We all need to be of help in making this a well ran association. If you have any concerns or question please contact President John Coburn @ 1-410-798-7826. We want to keep our Association in good standing order and keep a good reputation. We would like to keep people as happy as we can.

At the meeting on Thursday we also voted on the 18th Annual reunion which will be the 50th year of her Commissioning, it was voted to be in Buffalo /Niagara Falls New York, the Hostess will be Rosie Zeimet.

Next years 17th Annual Reunion will be in San Antonio Texas the dates are September 14-20 our Hostess are Jim Webb and Willie Williams and their wives. The Hotel is The Menger it is right on the River Walk the price is \$105.00 plus tax. You can go to the website @ Menger Hotel.com , we will have more on the the San Antonio reunion up and coming just watch for this on our web site.

A young man was given one of our USS GUAM coins his name is John Nate Mills he is in the ROTC ,he sent us a Thank You note which read, Thank You so much for the wonderful Challenge Coin. It is a honor to receive this gift and I will take care of it Sincerely john Nate Mills

It is that time again for dues so let's put our Treasurer Mr. Richard Daggett to work by sending your dues in. They are still \$25.00 for regular members and \$5.00 for associate members (family members). If you know a shipmate who is not a member talk to them about our association, if you have been to a reunion you know what we have a great time and you get to see some of your old Buddies, and tell some old stories. It is a great time!

One of Our plank owner Mr Casey Slays sent me this story that I am passing on to ALL:

On my way to the Guam's reunion in Norfolk in 2013 our plane out of Sacramento has a bad tire that needed changing. That put me late at Dallas causing me to miss my connection to Norfolk and Monday's base tour. AA put me up at a local hotel they gave me the usual ditty-bag of overnight stuff a meal ticket, and a ticket on the next available flight to Virginia. At 6:45 AM and a promise my luggage would be checked through to Norfolk. Of course by the time I got all these 3 hours had lapsed and it was 10 pm. I needed some sleep and thought about sleeping at the gate, but then I figured their free hotel was a better deal. I needed to get up at 4 AM to make that 6:45 flight that turned out to be on Southwest and took me to Charlotte first.

Arriving in plenty of time with boarding pass in hand and my Guam T-shirt from a previous year on I stood in line waiting my turn when a guy says hey I took the last cruise on her, pointing at my shirt. I replied hey, I took the FIRST one having boarded the Guam in Gitmo in 1965. My turn at the gate they scan my ticket and alarms go off, they ask me to step back and wait, tells his assistant that my ticket has not been funded AA had not completed the paper nor the transfer of funds to Southwest. About 2 minutes before the gate closes they get the ticket funded and a legitimate number assigned to it, he types in that number and tells me to board. I tell the flight attendant to close the door as I'm the last one to board. The flight to Charlotte was uneventful.

In Charlotte almost to my gate for my Norfolk flight I hear my name paged. Unbelievable thoughts went through my mind and the most prominent was WTF now! A lady wanted to change seats with me so she could seat next to her Granddaughter I agreed and took another seat. When I finally was able to board I sit right next to the guy who said he took the last cruise on the Guam. We get to talking about where and when we were on it he is a Marine Colonel who lives in VA Beach. I invited him to the reunion and showed him the itinerary, but he said he was a military contractor and very busy. landing in Norfolk he slipped a US Marine coin into my hand during our handshake and said, "from one shipmate to another may you have fair winds and following seas"

One of the best/worst flights I've had. How do you put a price on such a chance meeting one guy that took the last cruise and another guy on the first cruise on the USS GUAM LPH-9 ? What are the chances of that happening in a Country as large as this?

Signed: Casey Sluys
Plank Owner
(2013)

In closing this newsletter if you have anything you would like to submit into the future newsletters please contact President John Coburn and we will try and do it.

To All that have been ill a speedy recovery To All that have lost a Loved one
Our Deepest Sympathy and Prayers

All the Officers of the USS GUAM LPH - 9

HAPPY VETERANS DAY THANK YOU FOR SERVING

GOD BLESS AMERICA GOD BLESS OUR VETERANS