
Name:

Ken Murty EN2(SS)

Email:

kenmurty@yahoo.com

Date:

31 Dec 2011

Comments

After just finishing a plastic model of the Wisconsin for My Dad, Hugh F. Murty gunners mate 1st, He passed away at the age of 92. He served aboard the Wisconsin in the Pacific during WW11. I don't know which turret he was assigned to, it was one of 5 inches. He could never stop talking about His time aboard. I am an ex Submarine sailor during the cold war, but always was in awe of the bid BB's. Sailor, Rest Your Oars----

Comments from Dom; Ken, sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. I have added his name on our In Memoriam page, Our shipmate, Hugh, will be remembered in our Memorial Service at our July 16-22, 2012 reunion in Norfolk, Va. I looked up his obituary and see that your Dad served on the USS Quincy CA-71 prior to serving on the Wisconsin. At least he went from a heavy cruiser to a battleship. Your Dad came aboard as a GM2C on or before 4/16/44 and was a GM1C when he left sometime after 10/01/45.

Name:

gerald sifuentes

Email:

g.sifue@hotmail.com

Date:

16 Dec 2011

Comments

Any pic of USS Wisconsin along side with the USS Missouri and the USS Sacramento Aoe-1, in the Gulf 90-94?

Comments from Dom; Hi Gerald, check out our Pictures section, [1980's-1990's Page 5](#) photo #479

Name:

Richard Reed

Email:

dickreed@swbell.net

Date:

15 Dec 2011

Comments

I was a NROTC midshipman on the 1953 cruise to Rio and Port of Spain. At the time, I regarded this cruise as merely one more phase in my training to become an ensign with an expected commissioning date of June 1954. That did happen and I eventually was designated a Naval Aviator in September 1955. Returned to civilian life in August 1957. But in the years since, I have come to appreciate what a unique opportunity it was for me to serve on the Wisconsin, one of the last great battleships the world will ever see. The history of the world has been deeply influenced by the impact of battleships on the affairs of nations. The battles of Salamis, The Spanish Armada, Trafalgar, Monitor/Merrimac, Jutland, and the Philippine Sea changed the world. I will never forget those two months I spent at sea.

Comments from Dom: Hi Richard, thanks for your entry. You only served aboard the Wisconsin for two months, but you still remember and appreciate your time aboard her. I don't know what it is, but the Battleship never lets you forget her. I always said she gets under your skin and never lets go. This website lets me relive the 42 wonderful months that I served aboard her.

The 1953 cruise, crossing the line, was my first big cruise and my first big photo assignment. That was really a full day of activity. I guess you have checked out our page, [Crossing The Line](#)

Name:

Gere Mullican

Email:

steelman3@tds.net

Date:

09 Dec 2011

Comments

I was a crew member in 1955-56 and joined the Navy in 1952. I would like to purchase a current edition of The Bluejackets' Manual. Any help will be appreciated. I live just outside Nashville TN. Thanks in advance.

Comments from Dom; Hi Gere, the latest edition of The Bluejackets' Manual, 24th edition, was published May 4, 2009. You can purchase it on Amazon, www.amazon.com for \$30.00.

Name:

Duane Hanley

Email:

hanley61359@live.com

Date:

05 Dec 2011

Comments

Is the U.S.S. Wisconsin considered a sea worthy vessel. Is she kept in working condition?

Comments from Dom; I would say she is. The only problem would be breaking in a new Battleship crew.

Name:
JOHN P. BENKERT JR.
Email:
johnnnyyb@aim.com
Date:
03 Dec 2011

Comments

Thank you for putting my dads name on the in memoriam list. He passed away on 10/23/11. I met a lot of navy vets everywhere I went with him because he seldom left the house without some type of Wisconsin or Navy hat on and would chat at length with everyone he met with one of those hats on. They are a proud group of people. I'm really going to miss those stories. My mom saw a photo of him in uniform his sister once had and gave to her since then and she said I have to meet him. I thank god for that photo. Mom and I searched for this photo in vain after his passing. If anyone knows how I can obtain one she would be very grateful. Her birthday is DEC.7TH. I think I read somewhere the ship went to Nauticus on that day and no one can forget that day in 1941, she was having her 5th birthday party and everyone ran to the basement unsure of what to do. This website is a big help with our grieving process. R.I.P. JOHN P. BENKERT we all miss you. As always our prayers are with all the men and woman of the military and there families.
Thank you, John P. Benkert Jr.

Comments from Dom; Thank you for your entry. I would say, we former crew members are proud of our ship and always willing to talk to anyone about her. I hope you are able to get another cop of the missing photo.

Name:
FRANK AVERY
Email:
faveryoil209@aol.com
Date:
26 Nov 2011

Comments

Just a note to say Gerard St. Louis pass away July 2, 2011. I am his son in-law, just want you guys to know I will miss his story's about the USS Wisconsin.
He serve from 1944-45, he was a proud marine, once a marine all ways a marine.Thank you Frank Avery

Comments from Dom; My condolences to his wife and family. I have listed Gerard on our In Memoriam page. He will be remembered in our Memorial Service at our July 16-22, 2012 reunion.

Name:
Ken Weber
Email:
kennethjweber@gmail.com
Date:
23 Nov 2011

Comments

I know that the Wisconsin was called "wisky" because of the bow replacement from the Kentucky. I just found an article from the Wisconsin State Journal dated Dec 7, 1943 already calling it "wisky". a premonition of things to come. I do have the article to share if anyone's interested. Happy Thanksgiving Everyone.

Comments from Dom; Hi Ken, I have the article you mention. As you can see by the article, the term "Wisky" was just a short way of saying Wisconsin. The ships 1943-1947 crews' book starts off, "GETTING TO KNOW THE "WISKY". In the 1950's, prior to the collision, we referred to the Wisconsin as "Wisky". After the collision is was brought out that the spelling of "WISKY" could be taken as "Wisconsin and Kentucky". Maybe it was a premonition after all, back in the 40's



Name:

William Fox

Email:

wfox@vcu.edu

Date:

17 Nov 2011

Comments

I am looking for pictures of my grandfather, William Carl Fox. He was on the Wisconsin from 1943 to 1945. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Love the site! Thank you

Comments from Dom; Hi William, your grandfather served aboard the ship from Nov. 9, 1944 to March 8, 1945.. While aboard his rate was Seaman second class (S2/C).

I don't know what division he was in, Hopefully someone will remember him and contact you. Glad you like our site.



Name:

John Elliker

Email:

john.elliker@norfolk.gov

Date:

15 Nov 2011

Comments

News Article re: Battleship Wisconsin's "Paranormal Investigation" for Halloween Battleship Wisconsin: Haunted? Anyone who served on naval vessels remembers the vague feeling of uneasiness brought on by passing through spaces lit for night ops: the red glow just enough to see where you were going, but not enough to remove the shadows. Who's there? Who's not? What was that noise? For Halloween 2011, staff and volunteers at Nauticus and the Battleship Wisconsin in Norfolk, Virginia, invited the public to join them in investigating mysterious sounds and lights that seemed to hint at paranormal activities on board. The tours were based on "leads" left by security logs and police reports, which told of flickering lights, percussive metal sounds and disappearing figures within the ship after hours. Over the course of seven nights, over 270 "investigators" toured the second deck, going places on the ship not open to the public in over 20 years, including the main galley and crew's mess. Down the darkened passageways and past empty shops and offices, the investigating tours encountered the unexplained and unexplainable. How could a phone ring when

the IC systems were inoperative? What made that strange chair appear and reappear in different spaces? The noises! And the shadowy figures suddenly in the midst of the group – where did they come from? The planners took inspiration from other historic ships' activities of the season, including the successful Battleship North Carolina and Battleship New Jersey experiences. The Battleship Wisconsin experience, however, was certainly unique to the Hampton Roads area and the tours, planned and executed by a team of over 60 volunteers and staff, produced some very satisfying screams over the half hour spent below decks. Plans are already underway for a bigger and better Halloween Haunted Battleship next year. One untapped source of spooky information: former Wisconsin crew. If any former crew has a strange story from his time on board Wisconsin, contact John Elliker, the ship's project manager, at john.elliker@norfolk.gov – he's collected a few sea stories, including a real ghost story from Desert Storm (no fooling!), but can always use more. The Halloween "Paranormal Investigation" was the first use of second deck spaces by the public and helped Nauticus focus preparation efforts toward more accessible tours coming in the early spring of 2012. By March, a "Life at Sea" tour will guide visitors through more of the second and third deck living and working spaces, including highlights like the brig, laundry, barber shop, gedunk, and Chiefs' Mess. By the summer, hopes are high that portions of Broadway, including Fire Room and Engine Room 1, will be available for tours.

Comments from Dom; Thanks John for sharing this event with us. Looks like the Wisconsin is the place to visit next Halloween.
Looking forward to the opening of the second and third decks of the ship.

Name:

Keith Nitka Qm2

Email:

nagel459@comcast.net

Date:

10 Nov 2011

Comments

To all my Marine rover friends and the rest of the MarDet, Happy Birthday Marine! QM2 Nitka, Navigation Department 89-91.

Comments from Dom: Thanks Keith for your entry. I had a reminder in my 4 November 2011 newsletter reminding everyone that 10 November was the Marine Corps 236th Birthday.

ame:

BM1 SW CHARLES BROWN USN RET

Email:

STILL HOOKING UP

Date:

22 Oct 2011

Comments

DOM AND ALL SHIPMATES OF BB 64.YOUR SISTER SHIP IOWA IS TO BE MOVED ON OCT 27. THE WEB SITE FOR THE MUSEUM IS WWW.PACIFICBATTLESHIP.COM THE STAFF THEIR WILL HONOR ALL U.S. BATTLESHIPS. SO I HOPE OUR SHIPMATES OF BB 64 WILL GET SOME OF BB 64S HISTORY TO THEIR STAFF. FAIR WINDS FOLLOWING SEAS BOATS

Comments from Dom: Thanks Boats for the info. It's nice to hear that they are finally going to do something good with the Iowa.

Name:

Maxwell

Email:

os2sw@reeds.com

Date:

20 Oct 2011

Comments

So from what I have read in the Navy Times, GOP Mitt Romney wants to grow the fleet, With John Lehman at his side saying " to bring back two of the Iowa's" How true is that?? any one know of that?

Comments from Dom: Hi Maxwell, I haven't heard anything about this.

Name:

Keith Nitka

Email:

nagel459@comcast.net

Date:

06 Oct 2011

Comments

Run Tom Run!! That is great, good luck to you on your run and be careful. My wife said she'd never run in heels. QM2

Comments from Dom; Hi Keith, I wonder if he made it to the finish line, with the shoes on.

Name:

Bruce E. Erdner

Email:

bruce.e.erdner.civ@mail.mil

Date:

22 Sep 2011

Comments

IN September of 2006, I had the privilege of taking my father Jules M. Erdner (BMC, USN-Retired) to Norfolk to see the USS Wisconsin. My father had been stationed on her in the 1953-1957 time frame. The trip was essentially a guys weekend as my father, my son and I traveled to Norfolk to visit the Naval Bases in Norfolk and Little Creek. I will always cherish the words my dad spoke when we were crossing the brow from Nauticus to the Whisky's quarterdeck. He stopped about halfway across and said "I'm home." It was a poignant moment to say the least and this retired snipe bubblehead still tears up when I recall that day. I also have a photo of the three of us standing in front of the number two gun of the forward 16 inch battery, my dad flanked by my son and myself. This photo, along with the one of my dad holding me in his arms under the same gun in 1954 after I was baptized on board

by the chaplain, are my most treasured possessions. I look forward to the day when all three of us can once more walk the deck of the Wisconsin. Respectfully submitted: Rev. Bruce E. Erdner, MMC/ss (USN-Retired)

Comments from Dom; Hi Rev. Bruce, thanks for your entry. I'm sure your dad was proud to show off his home to you and your son. The ship is now partially open to the public. You can check the Nauticus website for additional information. www.nauticus.org

Name:

Robert Callahan

Email:

semperfibob51@msn.com

Date:

14 Sep 2011

Comments

Does anybody remember a Frederick G. Horne he serve aboard ship during Korea 51-55

Comments from Dom; Hi Robert, additional information on F. G. Horne. His rate was FN B Division, time aboard 5/19/53 to 9/2/55.

Name:

Christopher Kessler

Email:

delousedfrances@hotmail.com

Date:

09 Sep 2011

Comments

I am the grandson of Harry W. Kessler, a navy man who sailed on the Wisconsin during WW2. I am a poet (graduate of Virginia Tech) and I am writing a poem about my grandfather (Grandee). I can't tell you how much it meant to me to be able to Google his name and find it here on this list. Thank you for keeping him in your memories, I know he'll always be in mine.

Comments from Dom; Hi Christopher, thanks for your entry. Nice of you to honor your grandfather with a poem about him.

Name:

BM1 SW CHARLES BROWN USN RET

Email:

STILL HOOKING UP

Date:

09 Sep 2011

Comments

DOM AND SHIPMATES OF BB 64. GREAT NEWS BB 61 HAS BEEN AWARDED TO THE

PACIFIC BATTLESHIP CENTER. FOR MORE INFO. GO TO OUR WEB SITE AT www.uss Iowa.org OUR PASSWORD IS OPERATIONS. FAIR WINDS FOLLOWING SEAS BOATS.

Comments from Dom; Hi Boats, Thanks for the info. I did see an AP release about this yesterday. I'm happy for you and the former crew members of the Iowa.

Name:

FC1 (SW) Michael Husten

Email:

mhusten@aol.com

Date:

31 Aug 2011

Comments

Hey shipmates and friends, I arrived onboard in January 1991 as an 18 year old Seaman Recruit via a Desert Duck helo. I was on boot camp leave when Desert Storm began, and less than one week later I was on a trans-Atlantic flight to report to the Wisconsin! I was in 2nd Division from Jan '91 to Jul '91, my GQ station was in the Annular Space in T2, between powder mags and powder flats checking powder bags before we used them to shoot some VW's towards our NGFS targets in the Gulf. I worked topside on the Aft Vang Deck until transferred to USS Tortuga to downsize the crew for decommissioning. I bought one of the leather cruise jackets, but transferred before I received it. Has anyone else had this happen, and was there a way to remedy this? I'm 99.9% sure I'm out of luck, but I just wanted to give it a shot. I'm still on active duty since I did 4 years reserve from 92 to 96, so I have about 3 years until I hit my 20 year mark. Proud to be one of the few active duty sailors with time onboard the Whiskey when she was still active and striking fear in to the hearts of Iraqis when they saw her on the horizon. I still remember when they waved a white flag to the Pioneer RPV that we used for OTH (Over The Horizon) targeting. They knew what was coming next... Still live in Norfolk area, so I try to see her as much as I can!

Comments from Dom: Hi Michael, thanks for your Naval history. As for your leather jacket, sorry I do not have any information for you. Hopefully one of your shipmates can help you on this. Thanks for your service and stay safe.

Name:

Michael Bowers

Email:

bb64sailor@gmail.com

Date:

10 Aug 2011

Comments

For those of you interested... There is a fb page called "Battleship Sailors Forum". I was recently added and was told that the Wisconsin members were way outnumbered by the Iowa, New Jersey, and Missouri. If you want to join here is the link.
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/129775870371415/>

Comments from Dom; Hi Michael thanks for your entry. A point of information, membership in our Association is also way behind those of our sister ships. It would be nice if the guys you

are trying to recruit to join the mentioned facebook page would also concenter joining our association as a paid member. We would sure like to have more of the former crew members from the 1980s-1990s as part of our membership.

Name:

cheapcomputers

Email:

osbaldoadrien@gmail.com

Date:

30 Jul 2011

Comments

Indeed a very good read! Very informative post with pretty good insight on all aspects of the topic! Will keep visiting in future too!

Comments from Dom; Hi "cheapcomputers"????, thanks for the compliments and keep visiting.

Name:

Michael P. Nolan

Email:

mpn908@gmail.com

Date:

24 Jul 2011

Comments

I was just a visitor to your mighty ship and was impressed with its condition. I will return again when more areas are opened for touring, like the main galley & engine rooms. I've also toured USS North Carolina, USS Yorktown, USS Texas, and USS New Jersey. Out of these I was allowed in the most areas on USS North Carolina. I hope USS Wisconsin will open more of the ship for self guided tours like USS North Carolina is. I'll be back!

Comments from Dom: Hi Michael, glad you liked our ship. It was great serving on her. As for the areas you would like to see open, keep checking the Nauticus website they should list future openings.

Name:

Donald J Lecik Sr.

Email:

motowndojo@lecik.com

Date:

18 Jul 2011

Comments

Hello my friend Dom. God I miss all you guys, it's no fun to be paralyzed, spend about 15 or 16 hrs in bed. The bad part is that the government has cut the VA a big part. I was getting two nurses 15 hrs a week and now we get them for only 5hrs. My one nurse she sits and reads my Bible to me, only good thing I have going for me. Well I gave it my best, wish I could walk, my reunion days and cruises are all over. The best is the nurses and I watch the Videos. All you young Wisconsin shipmates remember it was all the old members who made this ship and association so great, stop talking about how great we are, join us and help make it bigger and stronger. None of us get paid, we love our ship. I put three yrs on her and went into the Seabees for the next 11 yrs but I never gave up on her, my nurses know all about the Wisconsin to. So my friend this old dreadnought, Seabee wishes that when you go to vote, remember what has been done to us Vets and seniors. Keep a good wind to your backs

Comments from Dom; Hi Don, nice hearing from you but sorry to hear about your medical problems. Glad you still have the videos to reminisce of all the good times we had at our reunions, cruises and best of all, your video of the two and a half days we spent aboard the Wisconsin in 1991, going from Norfolk VA. to the Earle Naval Weapons Station, Earle N.J. An unforgettable last cruise for us.

Name:

r m allen

Email:

allwis64@yahoo.com

Date:

17 Jul 2011

Comments

yes i was on board the Wisconsin from may 51 to may 54, and enjoyed every thing, and all the diff. places in the world i got to see. i was in the 4Th division, job run boats. my old shipmate c.e. Richardson i have been looking for many years, should some one have word of him would you let me know. thanks s.f.c. Allen allwis64@yahoo.com

Comments from Dom; Hi Richard, I see you are still looking for C. E. Richardson. Good luck

Name:

Noah Alexander Moore

Email:

kqb445@gmail.com

Date:

07 Jul 2011

Comments

When I first saw the U.S.S. Wisconsin I was amazed at how big she really was. My day was spent on deck with one of the surviving crewmembers. He was on board during World War II and I believe Korea. This man made my trip to the Wisconsin I will never forget. I intend to one day bring my little brother out to see one of the few remaining examples of what kept our country safe during two major wars. Thanks For keeping the old girl afloat and to all of you who served on the Wisconsin I wish you Calm Winds and Fair Seas

Comments from Dom; Hi Noah, thanks for your entry. Happy to hear you enjoyed your visit and that you had the opportunity to speak with a former crewmember. Thank you for your kind words.



Name:
LaDonna Bradshaw
Email:
bb64members@aol.com
Date:
03 Jul 2011

Comments

There is a Facebook page that someone started that is very active. It is: "**I Served on USS Wisconsin BB-64**". There are lots of entries and photos from the 3rd generation as well as others. According to Ranzy Weston, our association Vice-President and Reunion Chairman, the reunion forms and information will be in the August issue of the Badger. To get your issue, you must be a member of the association. Remember, only association members get free admission to Nauticus, so if you have family that will accompany you to see the ship, they must be members as well to get free admission.

Comments from Dom; Hi LaDonna, thanks for the information. For those of you that are on Facebook, check out the above mentioned site.



Name:
Johnny Borquez
Email:
johnny_borquez@yahoo.com
Date:
30 Jun 2011

Comments

Looking for all personnel from S-3 div. and deck div. Frankie Medrano.

Comments from Dom; Johnny, I hope you make contact with your shipmates.



Name:
George matthai
Email:
Matthai@fuse.net
Date:
28 Jun 2011

Comments

Hey shipmates, I am a little disappointed that many of you are not leaving comments in the deck log. I was told by one former crew member he checks it regularly but does not leave a comment. If you are reading this then leave a few words to tell us something about yourself. When and where you served, how are you doing now and some words of wisdom, what about you ladies? Are there any of you out there? Do we have a place on Facebook? If not I will put one there. Anyone have a blog? I hope to hear from many of you. You know what they say "shape up or ship out"

Comments from Dom; Hi George, thanks for your entry. I'm not on Facebook, but I understand a number of our former crew members have sites pertaining to the Wisconsin. I have been invited to join, but at this time I don't have the time to get involved.

Name:

Fred Evensen

Email:

btlshipsailor@yahoo.com

Date:

25 Jun 2011

Comments

Has the 2012 reunion been scheduled? If so where and what dates is it going to be. I need to start planning now to possibly attend.

Comments from Dom; Hi Fred, if you were a member of our Association you would have been receiving our publication, "The Badger" which is mailed out three times a year to paid up members. This April issue had some information about our next reunion. It listed our next reunion will be held at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside hotel from July 16 to July 22. The August 2011 publication of The Badger will have all the registration details. There will be a website with all the reunion information. At this time I don't have the information as to when it will be activated.

Name:

barktonian

Email:

Date:

28 Apr 2011

Comments

hello, yawl got one huge ship whew eh

Comments from Dom; You got that right!

Name:

Aldo Myers

Email:

whsky@hotmail.com

Date:

10 Apr 2011

Comments

Dom, Received word that David J. Otto HMCM(SW) USN (RET), passed away 02Apr2011, he served onboard 1987-1991?, H Div, he also served onboard U.S.S. NEW JERSEY. He was a true Master Chief..

Comments from Dom: I have posted David J. Otto on our In Memoriam page. Fair winds and Following Seas, shipmate.

Name:

Keith Nitka

Email:

nagel459@comcast.net

Date:

07 Apr 2011

Comments

Since the video for the farewell cruise is sold out. Does anyone have the video or a duplicate I could get from them. I of course would pay for it. Keith

Comments from Dom: I'm sure someone will contact you.

Name:

Keith Nitka

Email:

nagel459@comcast.net

Date:

04 Apr 2011

Comments

Dom- I received the April 2011 edition of the Badger today. The "Farewell Cruise Memories" is a really great article as I was still serving on Wisconsin for that cruise, QM2 Nitka. Mr Patrykus mentioned in the article that there were still copies of the video available from the cruise. How can I get a copy of the video? It would be a great souvenir to have.

Comments from Dom; Hi Keith, all DVD's of the Farewell Cruise were sold out a few years ago.

Name:

Stephen Rogers

Email:

srogers0808@yahoo.com

Date:
31 Mar 2011

Comments

Hello. my name is Stephen Rogers. I served as the armorer for the marine det aboard the USS WISCONSIN during desert shield and desert storm in 1990 to 1991. I really need a list of the marine det. that served aboard the USS WISCONSIN during desert storm.

Comments from Dom: Stephen, we do not have the listing you are looking for.

Name:
Gary Marglin
Email:
rynik@comcast.net
Date:
06 Mar 2011

Comments

My now deceased father in law, William E. Fuller was on the Wisconsin I believe from 1944 to 1946. Is there a way to find a crew listing for those years? Gratefully, Gary

Comments from Dom; Hi Gary, William E. Fuller did serve aboard from 1944 to 1946. He was a Seaman First Class (S1/C), I don't know what division he was in. A crew listing for those years can be quite large, more than 3000 names due to the turnover of personnel. Ships rosters are on microfilm at the National Archives at College Park 8601 Adelphi Road College Park, MD 20740-6001. (301) 837-2000.

Name:
Keith Nitka
Email:
nagel459@comcast.net
Date:
04 Mar 2011

Comments

Can some one help me. I am in search of the patch worn by Fleet Marines on board Naval Vessels late during WW2. It is a red diamond shape patch with a blue anchor fouled by a gold / yellow seahorse. I understand that it was designed by the 1st Sgt. on board Battleship Massachusetts late in WW2 and adopted by the Marine corps for wear by Marines assigned to sea duty. If any one has info on where I can find one I would be greatly appreciative. QM2 Nitka

Comments from Dom; Hi Keith, I hope you get some help on this.

Name:

BM1 SW CHARLES BROWN USN RET

Email:

HOOKING UP SOON

Date:

01 Mar 2011

Comments

TO ALL MY SHIPMATES OF BB 64.I THINK AT LAST YOUR SISTER SHIP BB61. IS AT LAST GOING TO LEAVE THAT FORSAKING MOTHBALL FLEET. FOR MORE INFO YOU CAN CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE AT www.uss Iowa.org ITS BEEN A LONG FIGHT.

Comments from Dom; Thanks Boats for the great news. Good luck to our sister ship.

Name:

Tim Rott

Email:

timrott13@gmail.com

Date:

16 Feb 2011

Comments

Served as chaplain from '89-'91 during Desert Shield & Storm. I have several extra ball caps I purchased on board if anyone is interested. One has scrambled eggs.

Comments from Dom; That's very kind of you, Chaplain.

Name:

Mike Bannon

Email:

mdbannon@verizon.net

Date:

07 Feb 2011

Comments

Now that the ship is open for visitors to the inside, I'm looking forward to paying a second visit. I was wondering if anyone could help ne learn more about where my dad may have lived and worked while aboard. His name was Thomas "Tommy" Bannon from Philadelphia, PA and served on her from September 1945 until sometime in 1946. My dad passed many years ago so I have little to go on but I think he was he was a Machinist Mate during that time.

Comments from Dom; Hi Mike, our ships roster indicates that your dad came aboard on 01/22/1946 and left the ship between 08/1 and 09/01/46. He came aboard with the rate of F2/C. Rosters do not list the crews divisions. With that rate he could have been a Machinist Mate. His discharge papers should have additional information. If you don't have his discharge papers, you can send for them click on the following URL and follow the instructions. <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/>

Name:
Terry Frost, YN2(SW/AW)
Email:
terry.frost69@yahoo.com
Date:
27 Jan 2011

Comments

I saw the comments concerning the Persian Gulf and Cruze Video. I still have a copy, stored in the garage after my last move. I sent a EMAIL to the address listed; however, I do not know if it went thru. My phone number is (479)453-1116 if someone needs to call me. I work dayshift for USDA and am usually available after 4:30 pm Central Standard Time. I would also like to reconnect with any of the Admin folks, Chamberlin, Falkenberg, MAC, Stallins, Best, Linley.... Of you guys that stuck it out, you should be just about ready to enjoy the easy life... God Bless. Terry

Comments from Dom; Hi Terry, as for Jim Boughton, the only email address we have is what he listed in his Deck Log entry. You tried and that was nice of you. How about joining our association. We really need you guys from the 80's-90's crew.

Name:
Keith Nitka
Email:
nagel459@comcast.net
Date:
21 Jan 2011

Comments

Dom and All-I have a question and I cant seem to find the answer online. Many years ago when I was a "Boot" I was home and an old timer called me a "Gob". Just the other day I was watching Abbott & Costello's "In the Navy" & someone in the movie referred to them as Gobs. I have found on line that it was a term used to refer to Sailors but I can not find why. I am hoping someone out there that can help me out with why "Gob"? - Once QM2 Nitka

Comments from Dom; Hi Keith, I also would like to know the origin of that phrase. My search only turned up, "A U.S. Navy sailor, originator unknown."

Name:
Dennis Dean Craig (former Sa, 1st Div.
Email:
Blackwolf4ever@yahoo.com
Date:
13 Jan 2011

Comments

To Dom ; I have a quick Question, I have some photos of the Whiskey I would like to post on here, how do I go about doing that?.
Regards Former SA Craig, Dennis.

Comments from Dom. Hi Craig, you can scan them and email them to me at,
Dombb64@ptd.net

Name:

Kirk Veselka

Email:

kirkveselka@gmail.com

Date:

09 Jan 2011

Comments

Jim Boughton, I worked in Wep's Dept. office and T3 for GQ. I still have my copies and I am in the process of getting the tapes I have put onto DVD. I have kept a close eye on my copies I would not want to loose them.

Comments from Dom: Hi Kirk, so will you be able to help Jim Boughton? Kirk, I also don't see your name listed as a member of our association, have you given any thought of joining our Wisconsin family? We need you guys from the 80's / 90's era to keep this association alive.

Name:

Jim Boughton

Email:

lzrdkngdroid@gmail.com

Date:

09 Jan 2011

Comments

E Division during Gulf. I am looking for the video compilation that was created for the Wisconsin. The video had the Suez Canal transit Music Video (Walk like an Egyptian), The launching of the Tomahawks (Thunderstruck). During multiple moves, I believe I have lost my copy. If anyone remembers this compilation and can point me to where I can get a copy I would appreciate it.

Comments from Dom; Hi Jim, I hope one of your shipmates can help you with a copy. I'm told they are no longer available.
I don't see your name listed as a member of our association, have you given it any thought?

Name:

Leo A Hofmeister

Email:

hofmeisterl@bellsouth.net

Date:

21 Dec 2010

Comments

I want to wish every one in our Association a very MERRY Christmas and Happy New Year. At 74 I'm still playing Santa for the children. As always, I try to ask them (What is the true meaning of Christmas) and most all know the birth of Jesus. I wish I could attend more functions but have a bit of health problems or modern maturity . I have our ships license plate on the front of my car and have many folks ask about our ship and it is always with great pride serving on her I tell them. Best wishes for the New Year. Former Shipmate LEO

Comments from Dom; Hi Leo, wishing you also, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year. By the way, your are still a Shipmate!

Name:

Willard Collins

Email:

rufuscollins2@yahoo.com

Date:

15 Dec 2010

Comments

I'm so glad I found this site to the whole whisky punch family. I have never met a bunch of guys who generally loved one another. Much love to all who served onboard.

Comments from Dom; Hi Willard, thanks for your entry.

Name:

DONALD JOHN LECIK SR.

Email:

MOTOWNDOJO@LECIK.COM

Date:

15 Dec 2010

Comments

THIS IS FOR DOM, DICK, CLAIR ,MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEARS, GOD I MISS YOU GUYS? RIGHT NOW DOWN HERE IN THE SOUTH EAST CONNER OF KENTUCKY, RIGHT OVER OUR HEADS HERE IN MC ANDREWS, ITS BEEN SNOWING FOR 6 DAYS WE HAVE 17" UP HERE ON THE MT. .I HAVE NOT HAD A NURSE SINCE THURSDAY, GOOD THING I HAVE FACE BOOK, AND TIVO, DON'T THINK I HAVE FOR GOTTEN YOU THREE YOUR ALWAYS ON MY MIND, ITS A BITCH BEING PARALYZED, BUT I DO HAVE TWO GOOD NURSES NO MATTER WHAT THESE OTHER VETS SAY ABOUT THE VA IT'S NOT TRUE. I GET EVERYTHING I ASK FOR GOD I AM SO LUCKY I DON'T HAVE TO PAY FOR IT, I SEE DON MCDONALD SURE KEEPS UP BUSY, LOL I THINK I REMEMBER HIM WHEN I WAS LEADING SEAMEN ON THE SIDE CLEANERS? ALL THE MEMORY'S I HAVE FROM THE WISCONSIN, NO

ONE CAN TAKE THEM FROM US, WE ARE NOT JUST SAILORS BUT DREADNOUGHT SAILORS AND THERE WILL NEVER BE ANY MORE. YOU CAN TAKE THAT TO THE BANK, I GUESS I AM JUST A LITTLE WORKED UP, YES I THINK WE ALL HAVE DONE 10 LICKS TO THE BOARD THE BEST YEARS OF MY 16 YRS WAS WITH THE WISCONSIN, OH BEING IN THE SEABEES WAS GREAT GOT TO TRAVEL A LOT ON THEM LSD, AND LST AND THE AFS IT WAS BECAUSE I GOT TO SEE 36 DIFFERENT COUNTRY'S, WELL MY FAMILY ALL YOU DREADNOUGHT SAILORS BE SAFE THIS CHRISTMAS, DONALD LECIK 7TH DIV 1953 TO NOV 1956, JUST REMEMBERED WHEN WE CAME BACK ACROSS EQUATOR AND WE DID THEM MIDSHIPMEN WHO FLY OVER THINKING THEY GOT AWAY FREE, I REMEMBER BUSTING ONE BUT SO BAD IT BROUGHT TEARS TO HIS EYES AND HE SAID YOU CAN'T DO THIS I'M GOING TO BE AN OFFICER, WRONG POLLYWOG, GOD THEM WAS THE DAYS. THANKS DOM FOR THE MEMORY.
YOUR PAL DON THE DREADNOUGHT SEABEE. LOL

Comments from Dom: Hi Don, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you also. Thanks for writing and hope everything goes well for you.
One of these days I will give you a call..

Name:

Ken Weber

Email:

kennethjweber@gmail.com

Date:

23 Nov 2010

Comments

Hi All, Sorry I couldn't make it to this years reunion, wanted to go since I live only 45 min away but was laid up with knee surgery. Anyways, talk about a small world. I was at work this past Sunday (11/21) at a local retail store when I see a gentleman and his wife walking down one of the aisles. I got a glance at his lapel and it has a USS Wisconsin pin on it. I went up and asked him about it and low and behold it was a 2nd generation crew member!!!. We chatted for a few minutes before I had to get back to work. but meeting him actually made my day. Who knew that there would be 2 members in the same town. Happy Thanksgiving All Ken

Comments from Dom; Small world isn't it. It pays to always wear something that says USS Wisconsin BB-64, you never know who you will run into.
Happy thanksgiving to you also, Ken.

Name:

dexter walker

Email:

dexter.walker33@yahoo.com

Date:

18 Nov 2010

Comments

looking for any mm who served during the gulf

Comments from Dom; Hi Dexter, have you checked our Members list? Hope you make contact.

Name:

Charles W. Pursel

Email:

bpursel@ptd.net

Date:

14 Nov 2010

Comments

Dom Menta, I am a nephew of George Fellows O'Keefe, who was one of your officers during WWII (shown on your picture #395 as Cmdr O'Keefe), and am researching family information for a family info booklet. 'Would be interested in Uncle George's career after the Naval Academy (graduated 1925) including add'l pictures, active war record, his position onboard - we think he was an "Executive Officer" but would like to know more detail about his navy life. I remember visiting the ship in dry dock when I was a pup, possibly 1946 or so, and enjoyed dinner in the officer's dining hall. "Casey" drove us from the hotel to the ship that day - I still remember all of the dress whites we saw that day. Charles W. (Bill) Pursel

Comments from Dom; Hi Charles, yes your uncle, Commander G. F. O'Keefe, was the ships first Executive Officer. Sorry to say I do not have any additional information or pictures of your uncle. As for pictures, in addition to #395, there is one more of him, see #393. To try and get his Naval history, you can click on the following and follow their instructions. [Request Copies of Military Personnel Records](#)

Name:

McDonald, H.T. 3Rd Div 53 to 56

Email:

hmcDonald1532@att.net

Date:

11 Nov 2010

Comments

Just wanted to take this time to wish all my former shipmates Happy Veterans day .And to all those still serving ,and wish for a happy return home to their loved ones. We are so proud of all of you for this service in making our Country safe and strong. BIG THANKS AGAIN , MAC

Comments from Dom; Thanks for your comments, MAC

Name:

Irving Zimmerman

Email:

howspar@aol.com

Date:

08 Nov 2010

Comments

It's great to see that they finally opened up the interior for tours. Three questions - do you think they will open up Broadway, the crews quarters and will former crew still be admitted without charge?? Happy Thanksgiving Dom

Comments from Dom: Hi Irving. As for touring the ship, I don't know if Nauticus will admit former crew members in free or charge them a reduced fee.

Our Association members will be admitted free. Crews quarters and Broadway may be opened in two years, just in time for our reunion.

Happy Thanksgiving to you also.

Name:

Irving Zimmerman

Email:

howspar@aol.com

Date:

29 Oct 2010

Comments

Great pictures Dom, wish I was there. Would like to have seen more captions with names but I know how difficult that is.

Comments from Dom; Glad you liked the pictures. As for names, I did the best I could from recognition and research.

I'm hoping those I did not name will contact me so that I could add their names.

Name:

McDonald, H.T. 3rd Div. 53 to 56

Email:

hmcDonald1532@att.net

Date:

26 Oct 2010

Comments

Well I was in turret # 3 but never made it to the place where the breach was , I was a projectile hoist man. Hopefully there are some out there that can help you. Go to the membership list and pick a gunners mate and ask him what you need to know. MAC

Comments from Dom; Lars, if you do as Mac says, then check out the 1980's-1990's members list and look for gunners mates that served in Divisions T-1, T-2 and T-3. They were responsible for the maintenance and operation of the turrets and magazines. Hope this helps.

Name:

Lars Jonlid

Email:

lars.jonlid@telia.com

Date:

23 Oct 2010

Comments

I have recently seen a video on YouTube, when BB 64 fired her 16" guns for the last... time. There were pictures from within one of the turrets, and you can see the name Alfalfa on the breechblock does anybody know, if all of her guns (16") had a moniker like this or was it just one? Kind regards /Lars

Comments from Dom; OK Gunners Mates, can you help out Lars on this one. If you know the names can you also tell us which turret and which gun, Left, Center, Right.

Name:

McDonald,H.T.3rd Div. 1953 to 1956

Email:

hmcdonald1532@att.net

Date:

20 Oct 2010

Comments

Has our beloved Ships web site gone by the way side? I visit everyday and there is never anything new on here. So come on Guys lets keep her alive I can remember a time when I would visit daily and there was always a different post. I don't like to be the only one to write but in order to keep her alive ,I will.....I have had some happy times aboard her and that memory will never fade .MAC

Comments from Dom; Your my best customer, Mac.

Name:

liwanu

Email:

lanun@yahoo.com

Date:

19 Oct 2010

Comments

Bring her back to war so we win...!

Comments from Dom; They won't .

Name:

Matt C.

Email:

zadmiral55@yahoo.com

Date:

09 Oct 2010

Comments

I'm building a scratch scale model of this ship but cant seem to find the deck heights anywhere. Were they 8ft?? and were they all the same even in the superstructure at 8ft???

Comments from Dom: Sorry Matt, I don't have those dimensions. Perhaps someone that reads this will have the answer for you.



Rich Cleary

Email:

r25c03@yahoo.com

Date:

28 Sep 2010

Comments

I am trying to find out if one of the skippers of this battleship was Bud Hamond (maybe Hammond) during WWII. Thanks for any information.

Comments from Dom; Rich, click on the General Information button above then click on Commanding Officers. You will see a list of all the Captains that had command of this ship, Bud Hamond was not one of them.



Name:

Tom Varetoni

Email:

TomVaretoni@att.net

Date:

25 Sep 2010

Comments

I was at the 2010 reunion in Wisconsin. My wife and I celebrated our wedding anniversary on the evening of the banquet. My daughter and her two young daughters came to Oconomowoc to dance with me on our anniversary. They did not attend the banquet because children (ages 5 and 6) don't appreciate banquets and it would be a lot of money to eat at the banquet. I'm glad to see the plans for 2012 is set for mid-July and a buffet is planned. For your consideration, consider having a child's price for young children. With the objective of getting family participation, this would allow more family attendance.

Comments from Dom; Hi Tom, Happy Belated Anniversary. Sounds like you and your family had a good time.

on Saturday night. In the past we did offer reduced prices for children. I will pass this on to our reunion committee.

CORRECTION: Children's dinner was listed on the Reunion Reservation Form, for ages 6-10, \$20.00. I should have checked this before I answered. We have always offered children's prices in the past.

Name:

Bill Dent

Email:

whdent@yahoo.com

Date:

23 Sep 2010

Comments

MY Uncle Theron H Dent served on the USS Wisconsin during WWII. Can you give me any information on him?

Comments from Dom; Hi Bill, all I can find on your uncle is that he was aboard on April 16, 1944 for the commissioning of the ship. This makes him a plank-owner since he was one of the crew members that was aboard on commissioning day. On November 3, 1945 he was transferred to Jacksonville, FL. His rating when he left the ship was Machinist Mate 3rd class (MM3/C). Hopefully a shipmate that remembers him will come forward with more information.

Name:

Irving Zimmerman

Email:

howspar@aol.com

Date:

21 Sep 2010

Comments

Hi Dom, looking forward to seeing the pictures from the reunion. Sure wish I could have been there. I hope you all had a great time.

Comments from Dom; Yes, I believe a good time was had by all. I'm working on the pictures now. They will be on the website, hopefully next week.

Name:

Rick neuhengen

Email:

Gringostar@charter.net

Date:

07 Sep 2010

Comments

Hi there My father was in the Korean war, aboard the USS Missouri, I had told him that I heard in a TV documentary on the history of the USS Wisconsin, that it was involved in a collision in 1956, but after the ship was now the longest of the Iowa class battleships. My father says it isn't so, and thinks I'm not this true or not?

Comments from Dom; Rick, we were told that the Wisconsin was longer by 7 inches.

Name:

Tina Long

Email:

tinal66@yahoo.com

Date:

28 Aug 2010

Comments

Thank You Dom for the information you've supplied! The dates are good to have as I can now see at least some of the things my Grandfather had been included in during the first year the ship was in the water since applied for his entire service records and am anxiously waiting for them to arrive. I wanted to let you know that my Grandfather, Paul H. Long, passed away on April 5, 1998. Unfortunately he never spoke of his service time and I was younger and much less interested in learning more before his passing. I thank you and the others for keeping up with and sharing this site for those of us with a need to know. Wonderful work. Bless.

Comments from Dom; Hi Tina, I have added your Grandfather's name to our In Memoriam list. He will be remembered in our Memorial Service at our next month reunion in Oconomowoc, WI.

I forgot to mention that since your Grandfather was aboard on April 16, 1944 the day the ship was commissioned, he and the entire crew are Plank Owners.

Originally, this term applied only to crewmembers present at the ship's first commissioning. Today, however, it is often applied to members of a recommissioning crew as well. "Plank owner" is not an official Navy term and has consequently been variously defined by different Navy units.

Name:

Lester L. Mongold GMG 1 ret.

Email:

lester.mongold@kennametal.com

Date:

26 Aug 2010

Comments

Hi Dom My father's name is Lester S Mongold, he served aboard April 1944 to Dec 1945 as a s1/c in 601. I would like to get his medals that he earned while aboard, all he got was ribbons. How's the best way to go about it? and what kind of paper work would I need to show that he served aboard in that time frame.

Comments from Dom; Hi Lester, you can send for your father's medals by clicking on the following link <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/> and follow their instructions. This was a free service, now

a charge.

You will have to send a copy of his discharge papers along with the SF180 form you will have to fill o

Name:

Tina Long

Email:

tinal66@yahoo.com

Date:

22 Aug 2010

Comments

Hello. I've been getting more interested in WWII over the past few years and the more I read the more I know about the events my Grandfather was involved in during his service time. Unfortunately I have not been able to left to ask to get the information I want. I've finally learned from my Father that my Grandfather spent time on the USS Wisconsin which has brought me to this site. I've viewed all the photos and I'm sorry to say that none of them appear to have him in them that I am able to tell. His name was Paul Habecker Long or Paul H. Long from Lebanon or Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. It is my understanding that he was in the Navy from 1942 to 1945 and my only other bit of information on his service is that it was once mentioned that he spent time in the water. Can you tell me anything about his dates on this ship and or any other information about him? I appreciate any help! Best Regards, Tina Long

Comments from Dom; Hi Tina, our ships rosters indicate that your Grandfather came aboard on April 11, 1945 and transferred off the ship on April 11, 1945.

His rate when he came aboard and when he left was Seaman second class (S2/C). I don't know what Division he was aboard the ship or what Division he was in.

I don't have any information about his time in the water, this could have happened before he came aboard the USS Wisconsin.

Name:

McDonald,H,T. 3rd div 53 to 56

Email:

hmcDonald1532@att.net

Date:

21 Aug 2010

Comments

Hi Dom, Not sure you will be able to help me or not but I thought I would give it a try. I am looking for information on a friend of mine that left the ship before we came aboard his name was Drennen Roberts. I have no idea what div he was in , but he was instrumental in saving one of his shipmates during a battle (I am sure)of that but the guy he saved was about to go overboard when he grabbed him and pulled him back on board. If you could give me some info , I sure would appreciate it Thanks MAC

Comments from Dom. Hi Mac, Ships roster has the following info on Drennen Roberts. He was transferred from the USS Missouri BB-63 to the USS Wisconsin on May 28, 1951. He transferred off on May 9, 1952 to the USS Higbee (DDR-806). He came aboard as a SN and left as a BM3. Roster sheets do not indicate members Divisions. I searched the division photos in the 3 March 1951 - 3 March 1952 Cruise Book and found him in the 4th Division. As for saving one of the shipmates during battle, I have no information on this.

Name:

Kyla Hensen

Email:

kahensen80@aol.com

Date:

14 Aug 2010

Comments

My grandfather Bryce C. Dickensheets was on the USS Wisconsin during WWII. He was in the Navy from 9/1942 to 1946. He was a radio tech. 3rd class. I was wondering if you had any more information on him aboard and where he was stationed.

Comments from Dom; Hi Kyla, according to the ship's roster your grandfather came aboard on Oct. 2 and transferred off the ship on Feb. 19, 1946.

Rosters do not indicate what divisions crew members served in. Your grandfather's rate while aboard was seaman first class (S1/c). Sorry I do not know what his job was.



Name:
McDonald, H. T. 3 rd div.53 to 56
Email:
hmcdonald1532@att.net
Date:
11 Aug 2010

Comments

I too was fortunate to be able to holystone the fantail deck of our beloved ship. Dick I probably was b
right beside you. 10 strokes to a board.I had heard about holystoning just when I came aboard in Sep
had no idea I would be doing it so soon, we were getting ready for the Far East cruise so we had to m
look good. I also remember washing down the ship after the first set of locks in Panama. And after se
of locks ,painting came next. MAC

Comments from Dom; Sorry Mac, that wasn't Dick next to you, Dick left the ship in 1951. Although pa
may have stayed aboard since he loved that ship.

Name:
Dick Hamann
Email:
dickbb64@aol.com
Date:
04 Aug 2010

Comments

I had the pleasure of pushing our "beloved holy stones" many times in the 3rd Division. Ten strokes t
board. On the fantail, that was a lot of boards.

Comments from Dom; Thanks' Dick, you did a good job. I appreciated the clean deck when I came ab

Name:
Irving Zimmerman
Email:
howspar@aol.com
Date:
29 Jul 2010

Comments

I wasn't a "deck ape" but I remember the "Holystoning". I believe it was 20 licks per board and then m
Anyone recall that?

Comments from Dom; I transferred out of the 3rd division before I had the pleasure?, to do that.

Name:
Shirl (Clouser) Smeigh

Email:

sasmeigh@hotmail.com

Date:

29 Jul 2010

Comments

I get on the website from time-to-time to see if I can pick out pictures of my father. He was GM2 Marlin (Maude). 1952-1956. I would like to hear from anyone who might remember him, if that's at all possible to you!

Comments from Dom; Shirl, I hope someone does contact you.



Name:

B. Merritt

Email:

bayshore11@yahoo.com

Date:

18 Jul 2010

Comments

Just visited the Wisconsin today 7-17-2010. It seems they are planning on opening up selected parts interior to tours in the future. There is a diagram in the entryway of the museum that notes which areas are included. I can't remember what they were. I was going to ask when this would occur, but the assistant deck were very busy and it was stifling hot. Was wondering about the wood deck - how was it cared for? I assume it is being cared for on a regular basis now?

Comments from Dom; The diagram you saw was released to the public at the Ships Turnover ceremony April 16, 2010. We have not been told when any of those areas will be open. The present teak deck is original deck. It was replaced prior to the re-commissioning of the ship in 1988. In the 1940's and 1950's decks were cleaned by holystoning them. Holystoning was done with a stick resting in a depression in the side of a stone and held under the arm and in the hands and moved back and forth with the grain on the plank while standing - or sort of leaning over to put pressure on the stick driven stone. In the 1980's holystoning was no longer used, a cleaning agent was used, decks were scrubbed and hosed down. Prior to the ship being turned over to the city of Norfolk, the US Navy was maintaining the ship, now it is Norfolk's responsibility.



Name:
McDonald H.T. 53 TO 56, 3 rd DIV
Email:
hmcdonald1532@att.net
Date:
15 Jul 2010

Comments

Well sad to say , I just lost a good friend that joined the Navy when I did, He was CPO Jack McFall Ret. He and I left home on Feb 10 1953 for Great Lakes Naval Training Center . Had lost track of him after basic and didn't see much of him till after he had retired . Needless to say he will be missed .MAC

Comments from Dom; Hi Mac, it's always a sad time when you lose a close friend.

Name:
Ruth Becker Butler
Email:
butlerruth@ymail.com
Date:
13 Jul 2010

Comments

I am seeking information on my father Irving Frank Becker who served on the USS Wisconsin BB 64. If you have any info please contact me at butlerruth@ymail.com

Comments from Dom; Hi Ruth, our ships roster lists an Irving F. Becker, CSR3 1/24/51 - 1/7/52.

Name:
Gary Finley
Email:
gminley71@yahoo.com
Date:
09 Jul 2010

Comments

Hello Dom and fellow shipmates. I found the site today and have spent the past 4 hours looking at pictures and reading the web site. While reading the Deck Log I came to an entry by you about the USS Wisconsin Veterans Farewell Cruise, to Earle N.J. for ammo offload, I was a Seaman in 1st Div. at that time, wish I could have seen the 16's firing but I was in the bottom of Turret 1 loading shells. It was quite an awesome experience to set sail with you guys onboard. I currently work onboard the USS Yorktown CV-10 and from time to time have run into a few Battleship Sailors (easily recognized by the Ball Cap). Such an great feeling knowing how elite of a group you are part of. You do a great job with the site and I can't wait to go visit her in Norfolk.

Comments from Dom; Hi Gary, thanks for your website compliments it's a lot of work but also

a lot of fun. As for visiting the ship, you can only walk her main deck and perhaps some of the decks above. Interior is not open for visitation. You missed seeing the 16's being fired because you were at GQ, so if you want to see what you missed, check YouTube, someone copied what I had on our website and put it on [YouTube](#). I had to take it off our site because of the heavy traffic that was being attracted to our site due to the 4 minute video of the 16's firing. Our Host provider was ready to shut us down. The video that has titles at the beginning and at the the end is the one I had set up for our site. By the way Gary, I don't see you listed as a member of our association, hummmmmmmmmmmmm! We would like you to join our Wisconsin Family. We have over 1000 former crew members that were part of the "elite group" you mentioned above.



Name:

John Samb

Email:

jsamb@namb.net

Date:

08 Jul 2010

Comments

I have heard that now there are tours of the interior of the ship. Is that correct? The last time I was visiting in 2007 or 2008 we could only walk the deck. On that occasion a very nice man took pictures of my daughter and I with a disposable camera, and then just gave us the camera. These were great memories for both of us. She has also been in Pascagoula since then for the building of the ship she is on, the USS Truxtun DDG 103.

Comments from Dom; Hi John, sorry to say but the inside of the ship is not open at this time. You can still do what you did the last time you visited her, that is walk her decks. Keep checking the Nauticus website, www.nauticus.org to see if they list when the public will be able to visit the interior of the ship. Please tell your daughter that we thank her for her service and good luck on the new ship.



Name:

Brenda Dickinson

Email:

brendald@cableone.net

Date:

06 Jul 2010

Comments

My father, Donald Leroy Dickinson served in the USNR on the U.S.S. Wisconsin from June 21, 1945 to October 2, 1946, as Seaman 1st Class. He received ALNAV - Pacific Theatre Ribbon, American Theatre Ribbon and the Victory Medal. He served at NTC, Samson, NY and was honorably discharged at Bainbridge, MD. I have photographs of his time at Manicani, P.I., Panama Canal, U.S.S. Portsmouth cruise to Puerto Rico among others. He died April 28, 1999, in Apple Valley, CA, at 71 years old of heart attack.

Comments from Dom, Hi Brenda, you and I have exchanged a few emails in regards to your father. Thank you for sending me the photos, I have posted four of them. They can be seen on, [1940's-Page 5](#) numbered 541 to 544. If anyone can fill in the names of the other sailors

please send them to me at, dombb64@ptd.net

Also, if anyone knows Donald's division, I would like that information also.

Name:

Irving Zimmerman

Email:

howspar@aol.com

Date:

05 Jul 2010

Comments

Had a really nice day aboard the USS Hornet, CV12. It is now a museum at the Alameda Naval Air Station. Got to tour the crews quarters, CPO mess, bridge, hangar deck, flight deck etc. What was great was the crews quarters still had the racks that all of us older guys remember from the Wisconsin before it underwent the changes. The Wisconsin is in much better condition visually than the Hornet but it was great to go below decks. I hope to get to do that aboard the Wisconsin one more time.

Comments from Dom; Thanks' for reporting back and glad you enjoyed your visit to the Hornet.

Name:

Irving Zimmerman

Email:

howspar@aol.com

Date:

02 Jul 2010

Comments

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY TO ALL!! My wife and I are planning to spend the day aboard the USS Hornet, CV12. It is now a museum, similar to the Wisconsin, and is docked at the former Alameda Naval Air Station in Alameda, CA. They have lots of festivities planned as well as tours of the ship. I'll let you know how it was.

Comments from Dom; Hope you and your wife have a great day visiting the Hornet.

Name:

McDonald, H.T. 3rd Division 53 to 56

Email:

hmcdonald1532@att.net

Date:

01 Jul 2010

Comments

Well it's that time of year again, wishing all a happy 4th of July , but remember, He that comes forth on the fourth with a fifth may not come forth on the fifth. Have fun drink responsibly.
MAC

Comments from Dom; Well said, Mac.

Name:

Jonathan P. Alter

Email:

cebudragonlady@hotmail.com

Date:

15 Jun 2010

Comments

Looking for any info and memories about Chaplain Herbert W. Buckingham - who was on the WISCONSIN during the Korean War.

Comments from Dom; Hi Jonathan, hope someone answers you.

Name:

John Tomcho

Email:

dmat63@hotmail.com

Date:

04 Jun 2010

Comments

Dom. I will. Thank you. Where can I find a ship roster? Thank you.

Comments from Dom; Hi John, click on the "Members" button at the top of any page. When the other page opens go down to the 1940's and you have four pages of names. If you recognize anyone and his name is in blue, click on it and you can send him an email. Hope you find a few.

Name:

Charles Stewart EM1 (Ret) Plankowner 87-89

Email:

stewtek@msn.com

Date:

03 Jun 2010

Comments

Hello Shipmate, I notice that in <http://www.cowpensvets.org/crew.html> listed our fallen shipmate that was killed aboard the USS Cole as "Operations Specialist" 2nd Class Timothy Lamont Saunders, 32, of Ringgold, Va. However, Petty Officer 2nd Class Saunders is listed as an "A Ganger" aboard USS Wisconsin BB-64. Maybe there should be some clarify to this. Thank you for the wonderful job you do. And I must attend the next reunion. Cheers! Charles

Comments from Dom; Hi Charles, thanks for your entry. You are half correct. Aboard the Wisconsin Timothy was an FN in "A" Division. If you have the 1990-1991 Desert Shield Desert Storm Cruise Book, you will find Timothy listed on page 117. His rate aboard the the USS Cole was Operations Specialist Second Class.

We try to list our former crew members with the rate/rank they had while serving aboard the ship. This is done for recognition purposes only.

Thanks for the site compliment. Please try to attend this years reunion and perhaps you can round up a half a dozen or more of your shipmates to attend also.

OH well I can dream can't I.

Name:

John Tomcho

Email:

dmat63@hotmail.com

Date:

30 May 2010

Comments

Served summer 45 through summer 46. Looking for others who served then who are still with us.

Comments from Dom; John, have you checked our members list to see if you recognize anyone?

Name:

Dale Miller

Email:

patriotblue02@yahoo.com

Date:

26 May 2010

Comments

I severed on board from 90-91 and will be retired on Aug 2010 and wanted to know if I could have flag flown on that day.

Comments from Dom; Congratulations on you pending retirement. Our association does not control this, you can go here to get your answer.

Contact the Hampton Roads Naval Museum at 757-322-2988 or email gordon.b.calhoun@navy.mil to make arrangements, or if you have questions.

Name:

George Mitchell

Email:

pumpdocchief@yahoo.com

Date:

13 May 2010

Comments

I served in BB-64 Aug '88 until my retirement Jun '90. I was LCPO of Turret #3. I too am proud to be called "Battleship Sailor". What a ship she is! It was quite an experience to serve as a GM & to have the retirement ceremony I did on this great lady! Great site!

Comments from Dom; Hi George thanks for your comments. It would be great to have you as a member of our great Association.

Name:

McDonald,H T 3rd divison 53 to 56

Email:

hmcDonald1532@att.net

Date:

11 May 2010

Comments

Hi Dom, What happened to the post I posted maybe a week ago . I did everything I was supposed to do ,is there a problem ? MAC

Comments from Dom; Sorry Mac, I didn't get it.

Name:

McDonald,H.T. 3rd Division 53 to 56

Email:

hmcDonald1532@att.net

Date:

08 May 2010

Comments

I remember this day well ,I was taking a nap in my bunk and doing a very good job of it too . When al of a sudden my nap was interrupted by a big thud . Was routed out and sent to my damage control station ,which was at the location ,carrying a large fire extinguisher. Now the rest is history. MAC.

Comments from Dom; Hi Mac, looks like most of us were taking a nap that day, including me.

Name:

Irving Zimmerman

Email:

howspar@aol.com

Date:

06 May 2010

Comments

Well today is the 54th anniversary of the great bump in the water. A little meeting with the USS Eaton. A day I will never forget as I am sure all those aboard will not forget either. It would have been a great cruise, I think. Anybody remember where we were headed?

Comments from Dom; Hi Irving, according to the ships history, on May 5th (1956) the Wisconsin took part in the Joint Civilian Orientation Cruise off the coast of Virginia. The following day the two ships collided in a heavy fog. The rest is history.

Name: Irving Zimmerman
Email: howspar@aol.com
Date: 28 Apr 2010

Comments

Great comments Dom. They turned our beautiful fighting lady into a sissy ship during the Gulf war. Air conditioned mess deck? You have to be kidding! As for the heads, I am sure our "troughs" are long gone and they put doors on stalls. And what was better than getting out of your rack and standing barefoot on the cold, steel deck. Maybe I don't really want to go below anymore. I would enjoy going to the navigation bridge. Spent time there during firing range practice.

Comments from Dom; Irving, I wouldn't say they turned it into a sissy ship, far from it, they just modernized it. You are correct about the heads.

Name: Lyle Baumgarten
Email: Imbrahma@merr.com
Date: 25 Apr 2010

Comments

While at the Norfolk Navy Base awaiting to board the USS FORRESTAL, I was on pier #5 as the USS WISCONSIN sailed into the harbor with the Sailors manning the rail and the ship's band on deck playing ON WISCONSIN. I still get the chills when I think of it. Being a native of the state of Wisconsin and now a graduate of the UW it is even more memorable! Thanks USS WISCONSIN for the memories. Lyle Baumgarten, Hillpoint, WI

Comments from Dom; Thanks Lyle for your entry.

Name: Russ Moody
Email: russ2146@yahoo.com
Date: 21 Apr 2010

Comments

My Uncle, John E. Hartman was a Fire Control man in the 1944 commissioning crew. I would like to know if a copy of the 16 April 1944 Muster Roll is available and how a copy of it might be obtained. I believe his battle station was a Director on the Port side of the aft stack, which might explain why he entered the Navy with blonde wavy hair and ended the war bald. My Aunt attended the Commissioning and the only thing she ever said about it was about how guests were fed in the crews mess. Hot dogs, beans and ice cream, The last thing in the chow

line was condiments. She asked for mustard. She said the poor kid was so nervous, the mustard plopped onto her ice cream

Comments from Dom; Hi Russ, the ships rosters for the 1940's and 1950's are stored at the National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road College Park, MD. 20740-6001. General Information phone number, 301-837-2000.

Name:

Irving Zimmerman

Email:

howspar@aol.com

Date:

13 Apr 2010

Comments

I checked out the below decks pictures. I was especially intrigued by the "Crews Quarters" photo. It doesn't look anything like when I was aboard. What happened to the pipe and canvas racks that we loved so much. What was it, 4 racks high?

Comments from Dom; Hi Irving, the good old days as we knew them, are gone forever aboard the Battleships. Not only have the racks gone, you should see the mess decks. No more exposed steel decks, they are covered with linoleum . No more long tables and benches, they have been replaced with small oblong tables that seats four with attached swinging chairs. Each table has a red and white checkered table cloth. On the tables you will find condiments and napkins. Gone also are the metal trays we ate from, they have been replaced with plastic trays. Reason being, food was getting cold due to the air conditioned mess deck. Also new was a salad bar and dessert bar. In the center of the mess deck you can help yourself to drinks, milk, juice, coffee etc. Put it this way, this part of the ship is somewhat like a cruise ship.

I don't even want to go into the changes made to the head.

Name:

Paul R. O'Connor

Email:

olights1@verizon.net

Date:

10 Apr 2010

Comments

Dom, I remember the trip to Port au Prince very well. I had a 1st Class QM first name John. he asked me to go ashore and buy him a solid piece of Mahogany, 3' by 5' that he planned to make into a coffee table back in Norfolk. When we got off the Liberty Boat we were in a big circle with a fountain in the middle. We told a cabbie what we wanted and after some yelling to other cabbies in Creole patois we took off on our search. We stopped a number of times while our driver spoke to other locals. We kept getting deeper and deeper in the slums of Port au Prince. I thought we would be found dead with our throats slit someplace. Eventually we wound up in a back, back alley where their was a wood shop. My limit was \$10.00 US for the piece of wood. After some serious haggling and arm waving by our driver we bought the solid piece and headed back to the Landing. Just know that that size of wood weighs a ton. we hauled it into the Liberty and went back to the ship. Now we had to get it up the gangway

which was real struggle. When we got on deck, the OOD gave us a hard time but we finally convinced him that it was for a QM1 and everything was OK. I can't remember who went with me on this adventure but I am glad that I had company. Paul

Comments from Dom; Hi Paul, thanks for the interesting story. It was pretty run down then and I was surprised to see that it's still run down today.

Name:

George Matthai

Email:

matthai@fuse.net

Date:

05 Apr 2010

Comments

It is with great regret that I inform you of the passing of one of our shipmates and a dear friend. Captain Francis "Skip" Crawford passed away in February 2010 after a long illness, he was 79 years old. I Believe he served on the Wisconsin in the early 50's. I have been in touch with his family,. His daughter commented she would like to keep his memory alive by me continuing the web site I created for him about "His" sea stories. I'm sure she and her family would appreciate if you would go to his web site www.sailorstale.homestead.com and click on "Sign my guest book" and leave a comment, especially if you knew him or have met him. Skip..."Fair winds and following seas and long may your big jib draw!"

Comments from Dom: Skip, will be remembered in our Memorial Service at this years reunion in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin September 7-12th.

Skip served aboard from 1952 to 1954. In our 1952-1954 cruise book, he is listed as second in command of "D" Division.

Name:

John Britt BT3

Email:

ibarpirate55@embarqmail.com

Date:

02 Apr 2010

Comments

I was on this awesome ship during desert storm I hope to attend a reunion soon can not afford it this time when I get to she her again ill cry of course I do miss her I just hope I can go below deck to my home #3 fire room. Anyone who was a shipmate please contact me ibarpirate55@embarqmail.com or if you served on her before, I love to hear any sea stories. Forward for freedom and its not cheap

Comments from Dom: Hi John, hope you hear from some of the guys. If and when you do attend our reunions, you will hear plenty of sea stories, guaranteed!

Name:

Email:

Date:

31 Mar 2010

Comments

On 23 Feb, SSG Anthony Folstad Wrote "My grandfather Clarence Folstad served on the USS Wisconsin from 16APR1944 to 28JAN1946. I have a copy of his service record book and I am trying to find out what his Rate and Class badges would look like. Rate abbreviation is F1c and USNR Class is V-6 SV. If anyone can help please email. Thank you!!! Oh ya my grandfather is very much alive and I am trying to replace his awards and decorations lost over the years.

The abbreviations stand for: V6 -- General Service and Specialists SV -- Selective Volunteer (U.S. Navy) According to the Glossary of U.S. Naval Abbreviations. you can check them all at <http://www.history.navy.mil/books/OPNAV20-P1000/V.htm>

Comments from Dom; Thank you for the information, nameless writer

Name:

Irving Zimmerman

Email:

howspar@aol.com

Date:

26 Mar 2010

Comments

I hope that the first visitors below decks will be former crew members and will relay pictures for all the members to see. I visited her last June and loved every second and wished I could go below. I don't know if I will ever get the chance to go back again (I live in California) so pictures are my only hope.

Comments from Dom: Hi Irving, if your are looking for internal ship photos, go to Other Photos Page-4 there are 218 internal photos starting with #346. It's the best we can do until the internal of the ship is open to the public.

Name:

Harold McDonald

Email:

hmcdonald1532@att.net

Date:

10 Mar 2010

Comments

Well here I am again ,been away for awhile I let my membership lapse and just renewed it ,so I guess I am back .Just wanted to say hello to all my shipmates from the 53 to 56 era 3 rd Division ,I've missed being on here ,or should say missed being able to post ,I'm here every day reading what others post. Dom sorry it took me so long to pay my dues ,but times have been hard lately , looking up now though .Will write more later MAC.

Comments from Dom; Welcome back, Mac. Glad things are starting to look better for you.

Name:
Ron Gorsky
Email:
rcgorsky@verizon.net
Date:
28 Feb 2010

Comments

My dad GM1c Jack A. Gorsky served on the ship during the late fall of 1946. Newspaper articles we have state that he was selected to pull the lanyard for a 21 gun salute. This was to be for the new president of Chile, Gabriel Gonzales Videla, in Valparaiso. He was also selected to fire a 19 gun salute for Admiral William D. Leahy when he boarded the ship in Balboa, Panama. Are there any crew members who recall this event ,the tour of the other south American ports ,where he served on the ship ,and why he would have been selected for the salutes? Ron Gorsky

Comments from Dom; Hi Ron, I hope you get some answers from our 1940's crewmembers. If you are looking for the names of the other South Americas ports, check our [Ship's History](#) page, I'm sure they are listed there.

Name:
Nikki Rump
Email:
Nikshadle@aol.com
Date:
25 Feb 2010

Comments

My farther Bud, sister Jessie, and I came to see her in July of 2008! She was so big, and my mouth was on the group! She was so much fun to see, I can't wait till they, open up more of the ship up to the pubic, I know the engine and boilers room, aren't going to be allow to be open, and I understand respect that! But, I just hope down the road! Its Just said, they didn't let the four ships stay together in the first gulf wars. I know the two younger sisters Mighty Moe, and Wisconsin went out there.

Comments from Dom; Hi Nikki, looks like you enjoyed your visit to our ship. Some day, hopefully soon, the will open up some parts of the ship.

Name:
SSG Anthony Folstad
Email:
anthony.folstad@us.army.mil
Date:
23 Feb 2010

Comments

My grandfather Clarence Folstad served on the USS Wisconsin from 16APR1944 to 28JAN1946. I have a copy of his service record book and I am trying to find out what his Rate

and Class badges would look like. Rate abbreviation is F1c and USNR Class is V-6 SV. If anyone can help please email. Thank you!!! Oh ya my grandfather is very much alive and I am trying to replace his awards and decorations lost over the years.

Comments from Dom; Hi Anthony, the F in his rate stands for Fireman. So he was a Fireman First Class. In the 1940's this rating was associated with the following divisions; A, B, E, and M. Does Clarence remember what division he was in or what kind of work he did aboard the ship? The USNR stands for United States Navy Reserve. Perhaps some of you 1940's era sailors can tell us what the V-6 SV stands for.

Name:

Karin Ficke Cook

Email:

karin@thecookcompanies.com

Date:

12 Feb 2010

Comments

What a FANTASTIC site. You can see the pride everyone has taken to make this informative, historical and memorable. Thank you all for making this such a wonderful tribute to a magnificent ship and her crews. Go Badgers! Karin Ficke Cook La Crosse, Wisconsin

Comments from Dom: Hi Karin, thanks' for the kind words. Glad you enjoyed our site and come again.

Name:

Richard Skinner

Email:

rhs3717@sbcglobal.net

Date:

05 Feb 2010

Comments

I wore my USS Wisconsin cap to a senior center I frequent and was approached by a guy with a Navy cap on. He asked if I had ever been to Guam. I said yes, we stopped there on the way back from Korea, to see if the floating dry dock there could raise our ship. Turns out it could and was the largest ship ever raised by a floating dry dock. (at that time) He said, I know, I was aboard the dry dock. Small world after about 58 years.

Comments from Dom: How about that, sure is a small world Richard. Those hats and jackets will do it every time.

Name:

Tom Bergman

Email:

tbergman@nc.rr.com

Date:

30 Jan 2010

Comments

Dwayne Shannon Sipe, Gunner's Mate assigned to Turret #1 was murdered recently along with seven others, including his wife and daughter. Please remember him in your prayers.
http://www2.wsls.com/sls/news/local/lynchburg/article/hundreds_attend_sipes_family_funerals_in_lynchburg/76963/

Comments from Dom; This was a tragic incident.

Name:

Arnold Millman, DCW3, 1946-48

Email:

ammillman2@aol.com

Date:

26 Jan 2010

Comments

Better late than never, I want to wish all my shipmates a healthy and happy new year. I hope to get to a reunion at a time closer to home. I live in CT. and when it gets closer, maybe in Norfolk again, I would like to go. Till then, hang in there, stay well. Your Shipmate, Arnold

Comments from Dom: Hi Arnold, it's never too late, Happy Healthy New Year to you also.

Name:

KEITH BENJAMIN

Email:

kvbenj@comcast.net

Date:

21 Jan 2010

Comments

1945 and 1946 A DIV. STEAM HEAT AND AFTER STEERING, ALSO SERVED AS A BOAT ENGINEER. ANY ONE OUT THERE THAT I MIGHT KNOW?

Comments from Dom; Hi Keith, I hope you hear from someone.

Name:

Gerald R. Wendrick

Email:

grwendrick@yahoo.com

Date:

02 Jan 2010

Comments

Hi to all hope your holidays were of happy times. It has been a few months since I have last posted. In August I took my twin girls to Norfolk to see the ship, they are just amazed by her. Brought back lots of memories. She looked good for wear and tear and to look down the narrow streets of Norfolk and to see her is just amazing like something out of a movie. Went and seen her twice while I was there, on the second day got on board and the first tour guide started his little speech. He looked at me and asked why I was smiling then realized that he had met me the day before, he just looked at me and grinned, he told the other visitors to ask me about the ship and told them that I was aboard her during the Gulf War. He just laughed a little bit with a big smile, well the next thing I knew was that I had a small group of people following me and my girls like I was the tour guide, for about an hour I had three couples walking the decks with me and the girls, asking questions the whole time. I was amazed on how much I had remembered of her. "So I would like to thank my friends and shipmates who taught me so much about her, enabling me to pass it on to others." I could still smell the familiar smells of the old girl it was almost like being there back so many years ago, I truly miss that part of my life and at times find myself wishing I could relive those years aging. I have a question for Dom. I see the reunion is set to be in Wisconsin this year. I live about 4 hours north and myself and another old shipmate are planning on attending, could you give me some info on this so we may make plans.

Comments from Dom: Hi Gerald, thanks for sharing the events you and daughters had while visiting our ship. This has happened to me on more than one occasion when I visited the ship. People see my former crewmember hat and or Wisconsin jacket and start asking me questions. Just like you, I'm amazed at how much I remember. I don't mind the questions at all as a matter of fact I enjoy being asked. You also mention the familiar smells, yes she still has them. I served in the 1950's I'm sure if you ask a member of the original 1940's crew, they will verify that the smell still lingers. I guess we will have to call it Mama's perfume. As for information about the 2010 reunion, later this week there will be a special reunion web site launched that will have all the information and registration form. The link to this site will be on our Home Page.

Send E-mail to Dom Menta with questions or comments about this web-site. This website was established in 1998 and all contents are the property of the USS Wisconsin Association. If you desire to use graphics or other info from this website please E-mail Dom Menta