

U.S.S. Des Moines CA-134 Reunion Association January 2019 Newsletter



President, Acting Secretary and Web Master Jerry Manriquez resigned

01/03/19

Vice President: Donald King resigned
12/30/18

Treasurer: Barrett Ferguson



January Update

We have a Roster of 2500 Names of sailors and marines who served aboard the USS Des Moines during the years 1948 through 1961. Many of these shipmates may have passed away but we have not been notified.

We have email addresses for about 500, and addresses for most of the rest. From our last mailing 78 emails were returned undeliverable. We can't afford to mail the newsletter to the other 2000 plus shipmates. So hopefully any shipmate who reads the website will contact us and give up his email address.

Out of the 2500 shipmates we only have 39 who have paid the annual dues to help keep the USS Des Moines Reunion Association going.

In talking to the Officers of the USS Saint Paul CA-73 and the USS Toledo CA-133 Reunion Associations they have been losing members every year and wonder if they will be able to continue their organizations in the future.

Send dues and reunion fees to the Treasurer, Barry Ferguson and payment to the ship's store should be sent to Tim Overly. All checks must be made out to "USS Des Moines CA-134 Reunion Association."

The 2019 reunion is scheduled for Wednesday evening, July 24th and all day July 25th and 26th, 2019 at the Mercer County Shrine Club at 4201 Lamor Road, Hermitage, PA. 16148. More detailed information will be provided in a later newsletter.

USS Des Moines Reunion Association Officers

President: OPEN

Vice President: OPEN

Treasurer: Barrett Ferguson, 31 Polar Bear Path, Ormond Beach, FL 32174; Phone (386) 671-9907; E-mail: befergie1939@gmail.com

Secretary: OPEN

Web Master: OPEN

Ship Store

Hat: Blue with scrambled eggs (summer & winter)	\$22
Hat: Blue no scrambled eggs (summer & winter)	\$20
Hat: White no scrambled eggs	\$20
Golf Shirt: With ship name & number (blue or white)	\$29
Golf Shirt: W/Pocket & Daisy Mae Logo (blue or white)	\$40
License Plate Frame: Black with blue lettering	\$15
Photo Button: Marine or Navy (out of stock)	\$ 4
Coffee Mug: W/pictures of Daisy Mae & the Ship	\$14
Ship's Shoulder Patch: 1948 – 1961	\$ 7

See website for pictures:

<http://www.usdesmoines.com/ships-store.html>

VISIT THE DES MOINES WEBSITE
<http://www.usdesmoines.com/>

Checks or Money Orders payable to:
USS Des Moines CA-134

Send Orders to:

Tim Overly
1240 S. Lake Rd.
Mercer, PA 16137
(724) 734-3134
toverly@neo.rr.com

MIDSHIPMAN CRUISE – HAMBURG, GERMANY

November 15, 2018

To: The Des Moines Register
400 Locust Street
Suite 500
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

From: Jerry Manriquez
3211 Kips Korner Road
Norco, CA 92860

I wonder how many Iowans remember they had two United States Navy ships named after their Capital. The first USS Des Moines C-15 (then re-designated C-17) served our country from 1904 to 1930. The second was the Heavy Cruiser USS Des Moines CA-134 which was launched on September 27, 1946 and was sponsored by Mrs. Anna K. Meredith, the daughter-in-law of Edwin T. Meredith the founder of the Meredith Publishing Company in Des Moines. It was then commissioned in 1948 and decommissioned in 1961; and finally scrapped in 2005.

I, Jerry Manriquez, am the President and Web Master for the USS Des Moines Reunion Association. I was born in Sioux City and grew up in Boone Iowa. I joined the Navy and served about two years on the USS Des Moines which was then the Flag Ship of the Sixth Fleet; home ported in Villefranche, France.

As Web Master I collect all related items associated with the USS Des Moines and one item was a Ports of Call Brochure for the ship's visit to Hamburg, Germany in 1956. See the website at

http://www.ussdesmoines.com/uploads/5/9/7/1/59715703/ms_cruise_1956.pdf

A shipmate, Phil Roberts from Hayward, California saw the Brochure and contacted me with a story about that visit to Hamburg.



During the summer of 1956, the USS Des Moines embarked on a training cruise for Midshipmen from the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and from other universities with Naval ROTC programs. On this cruise were first and third year students. In addition to at sea training, two ports of call were scheduled, Stockholm and Hamburg. There are many adventure stories sailors aboard this ship could tell about the cruise, and this is one of them.

Phil Roberts, Journalist 3rd Class at the time, was editor of the ship's newspaper the "Daisy Mae" and helped the Public Information Officer with promotional activities. During the cruise, Phil and his team were responsible for writing hometown newspaper articles about the Midshipmen. The ship's program for the Hamburg visit allowed Phil to be onshore for an extended time. A model railroad hobbyist, Phil visited a local hobby store and struck up a friendship with the sales girl. As part of the promotion, the ship was scheduled to appear in a television special. So, Kirsten invited Phil home to meet her parents and watch the program.

Fast forward 41 years to 1997. Now the Chief Executive Officer of an international aviation consulting firm Roberts, Roach & Associates, Inc., Phil had consulting assignments with Hamburg Airport and that year attended an ICBI Aviation Conference at the Ritz Hotel in Madrid. Benno Hoffman, then EVP at Hamburg Airport LLC, delivered a speech on airport privatization. After the presentation, Phil invited Benno to have dinner with him.

In trading stories of their past, Phil and Benno found that they had nearly met all those many years ago. Benno's grandpa had taken Benno down to the harbor to see the Des Moines on the day Phil was ashore. Benno and Phil believed they were likely just two blocks apart. Now, working together, their friendship blossomed.

At the time, Phil was a member of the Industrial Advisory Board (IAB) of Embry Riddle Aeronautical University's business school. Having an executive from a European airport on this Board would offer new perspective, so Phil recommended Benno for membership. The University agreed with the reasoning and approved Benno's membership.

As years past, Benno earned a PhD in Business to go along with his German law degree acquired years ago. Benno continues to serve on the IAB, and is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor for the University. His next assignment: he will teach two courses for the University in Singapore (January-March 2019). And it all began with the USS Des Moines' visit to Hamburg.

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The following story is from one of the Midshipman who served on board when the ship visited Stockholm and Hamburg.

**From: John Paepcke
Midshipman Cruise**

I'll add a story here that might at least rate a smile. While the ship was in Stockholm, a notice was posted, asking for volunteers for an Ambassador's party. My buddy and I had met a couple of young ladies, through the help of a couple of Swedish Naval Cadets and had arranged a date for that same evening, so we did not volunteer. As we were leaving the ship the next evening to pick up our dates, our liberty cards were collected and we were told that we could not leave the ship, because our names were on the party list. Obviously, they did not get enough volunteers.

Anyway, we were formed up on the pier in a column, two abreast, and marched off for the Ambassador's ball. Being taught to be resourceful, we managed to be the file closers. When we passed the first alley in town, we did a right flank and parted company with the main body. As it happened, the two in front of us were also non-volunteers and copied what we did at the next

alley.

I was told later that the column was so depleted when it arrived at the party, that they took a roll call. Needless-to-say, the missing personnel were put on report for failing to attend a “volunteer” function for which we had not volunteered. You really have to love Navy command logic. Side-boy duty in Hamburg wasn’t too bad.

‘Don’t ever be the first, don’t ever be the last, and don’t ever volunteer for anything.’ US Navy

The following pages on the website reproduce Hamburg newspaper accounts and pictures of the 1956 visit.

http://www.usdesmoines.com/uploads/5/9/7/1/59715703/hamburg_uss_des_moines_by_jerry_manriquez.pdf

Vice Admiral Anderson. The many missions served by the USS Des Moines CA-134 upheld the creed aptly stated by Commander Sixth Fleet, Vice Admiral Anderson: “We will keep alert to any storm clouds on the horizon. We will maintain old friends and we will hope to make new ones. Above all, we shall do our best to keep the peace and to restore it quickly if it should be breached



MILITARY FUNERAL – THE FLAG

WHY THE AMERICAN FLAG IS FOLDED 13 TIMES

Have you ever noticed on TV or at military funerals that the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the American flag 13 times?

The 21 gun salute was determined (adding the individual digits of 1776), and the flag is folded 13 times when it is lowered or when it is folded and handed to the widow at the burial of a veteran.

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The fifth fold is a tribute to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong."

The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States Of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that we protect our country and our flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.

The ninth fold is a tribute to womanhood; for it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The tenth fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since they were first born.

The eleventh fold, in the eyes of a Hebrew citizen represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon, and glorifies in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The twelfth fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Thirteenth fold, When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding us of our nation's motto, "In God We Trust".

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the sailors and marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for us the rights, privileges, and freedoms we enjoy today. There are some traditions and ways of doing things which have deep meaning.

Captain Fudge. He was a captain in the British Navy in the 1600s. His wild tales about his seafaring adventures earned him the nickname "Lying Fudge." Sailors of the day referred to his storytelling as "fudging it."

Admiral Edward "Old Grog" Vernon. Old Grog was famous for pacing his ship's deck in a **grogam** cloak (a water proof cloak of coarse fabric made of silk, often combined with mohair or wool and stiffened with gum). ---that's how he got his nickname. But he was also famously cheap. When he began watering down the rum he served to his sailors, they christened the weakened spirit "Grog."

We will have our 44th Reunion in July 2019. Do you think we can make it past 50 and beat the USS Philadelphia?

TO: USS DES MOINES MEMBERSHIP

2016

On behalf of the Cruisers Association, we would like to say, Congratulations, on reaching your 40th Reunion. We know of only one other cruiser association that has reached this milestone, the USS Philadelphia CL-41 (they made it to 50 years. 1964-2013.) Yours is truly an accomplishment that few can claim and no doubt is a result of the bond of brotherhood felt among the shipmates and the dedication of the Association officers over those past 40 years.

In that this is your final ship's association reunion we also would like to extend an invitation to all the Des Moines shipmates to attend future USNCSA reunions as they may wish. Our 2016 reunion is scheduled for May 16-21 in New Orleans at the Maison St. Charles Hotel & Suites. Membership in our Association is not a requirement to attend.

We often have other ship associations piggy-back on our class association and a number of associations have merged/melded with us as they decommissioned due to viability issues.

We are happy to have, currently some 129 Des Moines shipmates as members of Cruiser Sailors.

You have set high marks for us to follow in these difficult times.

U.S.S Des Moines CA-134



Jerry Manriquez, Secretary
U.S.S. Des Moines Reunion Association
3211 Kips Korner Road
Norco, CA 92860