

## Submitted Information: To the new Web Site starting Sept. 2015

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**August 25, 2019**

**Name** Jim Peden

**Email** mail.jimpeden@gmail.com

**Rating** FTG/3

**What was your Division?** Fox Div. (on the USS Newport News CA-148

**Dates Served on Des Moines** didn't

**Where do you currently live?** Shoreham Vermont

**Comment** I am Jim peden, recently retired president of the USS Newport News Reunion Association and still a member of the board of directors of the corporation. We would like to invite any of you guys to join us at our reunions, since we served on identical ships and shared many identical experiences. I know you guys are all 10 years older than us, but we would treat you well if you came to one of our reunions. You have any interest in hooking up with us, give me a call at area code 802-897-2001, or email me at mail.jimpeden@gmail.com Fair Winds and following Seas, Jim Peden.

**May 26, 2019**

**Name:** Robert Niewoonder

**Email:** [rniewo@gmail.com](mailto:rniewo@gmail.com)

**Rating:** AK2

**What was your Division?** S1

**Dates Served on Des Moines:** Sept 1953-May 1954

**Where do you currently live?** Portage MI 49024

**Comment:** Times running out, so I like seeing old memories on the website.

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**MAY 8, 2019**

**Name:** Dave Speck

**Email:** [davidaspeck@gmail.com](mailto:davidaspeck@gmail.com)

**Where do you currently live?** NJ

**Comment:** Hello, Just wanted to take a moment to say how very much my father, Albert Speck, cherished his time with you'all. He's gone 4 years now. As I sit and write this, I'm having my morning coffee with his USS Des Moines CA-134 mug. Nice to see you are carrying on; it meant a lot to him. Best, Dave Speck  
[davidaspeck@gmail.com](mailto:davidaspeck@gmail.com)

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**APR 21, 2019**

**Name:** Ronald Hartmann

**Email:** ronhart77@juno.com

**Rating:** ET2 Electronics Technician

**What was your Division?** OE

**Dates Served on Des Moines?** 1958 - 1961

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**Where do you currently live?** Monument, Colorado

**Comment:** Living in the foot hills of the Rocky Mountains - can see Pikes Peak from my house. My grand daughter is currently going to college in Lyon, France. I sent her some extra money to visit Villefranche and take some photos, My daughter is also going to visit her in Villefranche. How time flies. Approaching my 80th birthday in August! -----

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**JAN 23, 2019**

**Name:** George R Poyner

**Email:** [twoifbysea@hotmail.com](mailto:twoifbysea@hotmail.com)

**Rate:** Gunner's Mate 2nd Class

**What was your Division?** 5th Division

**Dates Served on Des Moines?** 1951-55

**Where do you currently live?** Deceased (Jan. 14, 2019) **Comment** I'm a close friend of the late George R. Poyner. You had him on your current roster as having died back in 2005 in Louisiana. That was bad info. George was born in Baltimore, lived there most of his life and moved down to Harpers Ferry, W.Va., some 30 years ago. He was born in 1929 and died, as listed above, on Jan. 14, 2019. Will be sorely missed. Hope this helps your record-keeping. Respectfully, David Lauterborn, Managing Editor, Military History magazine (and George's good friend)

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JAN 3, 2019

**Name:** FRED OWEN

**Email:** [studly229@gmail.com](mailto:studly229@gmail.com)

**Rate:** SN BUGLER

**What was your Division?** 2ND

**Dates Served on Des Moines?** 1951 -1953

**Where do you currently live?** MCMINNVILLE. OREGON

**Comment:** I WAS THE GUY YOU ALL LOVED TO HATE, FROM EARLY UNTIL LIGHTS OUT.....THE SHIP'S BUGLER. GQ UNDERWAY WAS SIGNAL BRIDGE/CON. ALSO ON DAISY MAE BASKET-BALL TEAM. TRANSFERRED ABOARD FROM CA-148 THEN TO AMS-85 IN '53, THEN TO CIVIE LIFE. NO SWEAT, SAILORS. I DON'T REMEMBER YOU EITHER. JUST A HELLUVA SHIP AND LIKEWISE THE CREW! FRED OWEN, PARTRIDGE, KENTUCKY.

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**Dec 26, 2018**

**Name:** Jane Storm

**Email:** [jnestorm@ptd.net](mailto:jnestorm@ptd.net)

**Comment:** Just wanted to post a long overdue thank you for Lou Lockwood. He gave me a very old harmonica instruction booklet, as he knows I enjoy playing harmonica. Many thanks, Lou! I was really touched by your kind gesture! Jane Storm

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**DEC 3, 2018**

**Name:** edward martinez

**Email:** winniedog12@gmail.com

**Where do you currently live?** yukon,ok

**Comment:** As a youth, I lived in Athens, Greece. I believe it was 1959 that the des moines paid a visit to the harbour, While there your ship softball team came ashore and played a game against our AF base team.They won 11 to 4.Anyway, I have had a autographed softball from that game and would love to return it to the ships menyory. **If you would be interested in item please send me a e-mail or call my home.edward m martinez (405)354-6464. Please feel free to c all any tine.I would be honored to return this item, and maybe some of the names attached will return some memories to some one that served aboard the Des Moines. Thank you and hope to hear from you and other members of the crew.**

**Note from Web Master: I tried to contact everyone on that team, but did not Have any luck. Jerry Manriquez**

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**OCT 23. 2018**

**Name** Thomas C. Martin

**Email** tmartin1@ma.rr.com

**Rating** MM2

**What was your Division?** M Division

**Dates Served on Des Moines** 1949-1952

**Where do you currently live?** Anmoore, West Virginia 26323

**Comment** I was very happy to find this site. After boot camp at Great Lakes I attended Machinist Mate school also at Great Lakes. I was then assigned to the USS Des Moines, the best ship in the US Navy. I served approx. 3-1/2 years and was discharged in May 1952 at Norfolk. I had enlisted for three years but when the Korean War started I was froze, which I did not mind. My entire service duty was in the Engine Room. I would be happy to join your group is you would give me the details involved. Thank you and God Bless. Also, I am 90 years of age.

**OCT 17. 2018**

**Name** Paul Rizzo

**Email** [srchf131@yahoo.com](mailto:srchf131@yahoo.com)

**Rating** BT2

**Division** B

**Dates Served** April 1955 - November 1958

**Comment** I was transferred to the USS Delong, DE 689. Did 4 more years and got out. I stayed out for 11 years, then went into the Navy Seabees for 22 years. retired EOCS in 1995. I would love to try and make it up to the reunion this year, I'll let you know.

Paul Rizzo, Retired Navy Seabee

**OCT 08, 2018**

**Name** Richard Schweiger

**Email** richmarset@aol.com

**Rating** EM3

**What was your Division?** E

**Dates Served on Des Moines** 1958-1959

**Where do you currently live?** Pittsburgh PA

**Comment** According to the Pittsburgh Post Gazette Obituaries dated 10/7/2018 former shipmate William O'Connell passed away on Oct. 3rd after a long illness. His obit states that he served on the USS Des Moines no dates were provided.

**SEP 21, 2018**

**Name** Nancy Lake

**Email** lamanchalake@msn.com

**Where do you currently live?** Norco, CA

**Comment** Jerry: John G Lake passed away three years ago. Sorry if I forgot to notify you. Nancy Lake

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**SEP 21, 2018**

**Name** John Hallich

**Email** eros45971@bigfork.net

**What was your Division?** OI

**Dates Served on Des Moines** 59-61

**Where do you currently live?** Talmoon, MN

**Comment** I still remember the one year on board 1960 & 1961 sad day when we came back across the Atlantic and then decommission CA 134

Response from Jerry Manriquez

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When I was aboard, 1957-1960 the Captain said when we returned to the States he was going to divert across the equator so we all could become shellbacks.

Too bad your Captain did not do this for you guys.

Jerry Manriquez

President

No one is really sure when or how the Line Crossing Ceremony, "[Order of Neptune](#)", came about. The ritual dates back at least 400 years in Western seafaring.

The ceremony observes a mariner's transformation from slimy Pollywog, a seaman who hasn't crossed the equator, to trusty Shellback, also called a Son or Daughter of Neptune. It was a way for sailors to be tested for their seaworthiness.

When a ship crosses the equator, King Neptune comes aboard to exercise authority over his domain and to judge charges brought against Pollywogs that they are only posing as sailors and haven't paid proper homage to the god of the sea.

High ranking members of the crew and those who have been Shellbacks the longest dress up in elaborate costume and each play the part of King Neptune's court. For instance, the ship's captain might play the part of King Neptune himself. What proceeds is a day of festivities, which builds camaraderie among the seafaring crew

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**SEP 21, 2018**

**Name** Dale Mahlum

**Email** mal51732@aol.com

**What was your Division?** S1

**Dates Served on Des Moines** 51-53

**Where do you currently live?** Missoula MT

**Comment** YOU SHOULD TRY AND KEEP THE REUNION EVENT GOING AS LONG AS POSSIBLE---THE DES MOINES WAS A GREAT SHIP- 2 CRUISES TO THE MED.

THANKS JERRY FOR THE NICE MESSAGE----YES, I AM GETTING UP IN AGE - 88 AT THE PRESENT TIME---I JUST LOVE LIFE AND IT HAS BEEN A GOOD ONE---GREAT FAMILY--GREAT BUSINESS AND THEN I SPENT 8 YEARS IN THE MONTANA SENATE---MY HOW GOOD THOSE DAYS WERE.---I REALLY DO APPRECIATE YOUR TIME YOU HAVE TAKEN TO WRITE ME. I LIVE ON A HORSE FARM AND RAISE THOROUGHbred RACE HORSES. AGAIN, MANY THANKS---RESPECTFULLY YOURS DALE MAHLUM

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**Sept 20, 2018**

**Name** Allen Christian

**Email** wa6srt@gmail.com

**Rating** SN

**What was your Division?** N

**Dates Served on Des Moines** 1951-1952

**Where do you currently live?** Garden Grove, CA

**Comment** I first served aboard the USS Newport News CA-148 in 1951, went to the Med cruise, transferred to the USS Des Moines CA-134 at Gibraltar. Then back to Norfolk and November 1952 discharged. I have searched for some of my shipmates but not much luck. I hope to connect with one at the next reunion.

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**SEP 15, 2018**

**Name** Richard Krehling

**Email** rpkrehling@verizon.net

**Rank** SM3 Rating

**What was your Division?** OS

**Dates Served on Des Moines** 58-59

**Where do you currently live?** Ashburn, VA

**Comment** Would like to know if my Dues are paid up. I am sorry I missed this years reunion. If there is going to be another redunion, I am going to see if one of my kids will drive me.

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**SEP 10, 2018**

**Name** Bob Comeau

**Email** bobcom27@comcast.net

**Rank** DT3 Rating Dental Technician

**What was your Division?** "D"

**Dates Served on Des Moines** December 1959 to April 1961

**Where do you currently live?** Dartmouth, Massachusetts

**Comment** As we get older, the memories fade, but only a little. Great ship / great crew.

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**Sept 01, 2018**

**Name** stephen cherry

**Email** scherry1704@comcast.net

**Comment** Good Morning. My uncle, Charles T. Cherry, served on the Des Monies in the 50's. He passed away in November 2016. I am trying to find a home for a book I found in his things. A USS DES MONIES Cruise Calendar 1955. I thought you may want it or could suggest someone I can send to.  
Stephen Cherry

Reply to Stephen: Thanks for notifying us of Charles death. We do have the 1955 Cruise Book, thank you.

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**AUG 26, 2018**

**Name** William Copeland

**Email** williamhc3757@comcast.net

**Rank** sn

**What was your Division?** s3

**Dates Served on Des Moines** 1959 to 1961

**Where do you currently live?** union city ca

**Comment** i am on the taps list. and i am not dead yet, but i am working on that. please take me off the taps list for now. thank you.

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**AUG 15, 2018**

**Name** Sheliah (daughter to John Pilon) Shepard

**Email** sdshepard@gmail.com

**Rank** SN

Sixth Fleet

**Dates Served on Des Moines** 1948-1951

**Where do you currently live?** My father is deseased as of 3-13-1992

**Comment** I am writing a book about my father's military service time on the USS Des Moines CA-134 Jerry the web master has been helping me with a lot of information. But Now I can't get ahold of him. I have some ship logs I purchased and would like to donate to the USS Des Moines Ca-134 web site. I sent them to Jerry but got no response. I hope he is okay. Please could you tell me was there a cruise ship for 1949 or 1950. My father was in the Mediterean Sept. 1949-Jan. 1950, and again in September 1950. Did your ship have its own newspaper? What was it called and where can I view them? I have read a lot of the All Hands but the USS Des Moines Ca-134 is not mentioned in those magazines. Can you please direct me? Thank you greatly, Sheliah Shepard, Daughter of John Pilon , USS Des Moines Ca-134 1948-1951

### **Response to Sheliah Shepard**

Sheliah,

Sorry I did not respond earlier, I was on an extended trip. I emailed everyone on my email list who served from 1948 to 1950 asking them if they had a cruise book. Here is the response I received:

My name is Clair Buckingham and I was on the ship from the shakedown until 1952. I have the 1951-1952 cruise book which is the first one you list and I don't remember any ones for the first two cruises in 1949 and 1950. It was only the latter cruises when someone decided that a book would be nice.

I have a number of ship's newspapers on the website, but you are looking for the early ones called the Hawkeye. I found some of them at our latest reunion and will put them on line sometime in the near future.

When you finish the book, I would like to put it on the website under personal stories.

Jerry Manriquez

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**AUG 7, 2018**

**Name** Mary & Tom Phebus

**Email** [doetzy01@gmail.com](mailto:doetzy01@gmail.com)

**Comment:** tom phebus gave you the wrong email new one is [doetzy01@gmail.com](mailto:doetzy01@gmail.com) his cell is 815-651-720

Response

Thanks for correcting the email address. Sorry, it took so long to respond to you, I just got back to California from the East Coast. Tom, I am glad you got to come to the reunion, I hope you can make it again next year and bring Mary.

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**AUG 7, 2018** IP 24.6.214.174

**Name** William Copeland

**Email** williamhc3757@comcast.net

**Rank** sn

**Division** s3

**Dates Served on Des Moines** 1959 to 1961

**Where do you currently live?** union city ca

**Comment** my name is on the taps list and i am not dead yet. altho i am working on it. please take me off the list for now.

### **AUG 1, 2018**

**Name** stephen cherry

**Email** scherry1704@comcast.net

**Comment** Good Morning. My uncle, Charles T. Cherry, served on the Des Monies in the 50's. He passed away in November 2016. I am trying to find a home for a book I found in his things. A USS DES MONIES Cruise Calendar 1955. I thought you may want it or could suggest someone I can send to.  
Stephen Cherry

### **JUL 31, 2018**

**Name** BARBARA FAY

**Email** fayway@comcast.net

**Dates Served on Des Moines** 1956-1958

**Where do you currently live?** DuBois, PA

**Comment** I am writing to advise you of the passing of our Father and fellow USS Des Moines shipmate Howard P. Kessler. Obituary for Howard P. Kessler  
Howard P. "Papa" Kessler, 79, DuBois, passed away Saturday, July 14, 2018 at Penn Highlands DuBois. Born November 26, 1938, in DuBois, he was the son of the late William H. and Elise P. (Overdorff) Kessler. On August 26, 1960, he married Gloria A. (Hall) Kessler at the Allens Mills United Methodist Church. She preceded him in death on October 2, 1993. Howard graduated from Sandy High School in 1956. He later retired from Brockway Glass, where he was a machine operator. Howard enjoyed farming, gardening, square dancing, woodworking, hunting, fly-fishing, spending time with his friend, Nancy Barrett, and being with his family and friends. He was a member of the Allens Mills UMC. As a veteran of the U.S. Navy, Howard served on the U.S.S. Des Moines in the Mediterranean Sea area. Howard is survived by four children, Dale A. (Marie) Kessler, DuBois, Douglas A. (Joselyn) Kessler, DuBois, Gregory P. (Diane) Kessler, Marysville, PA, and Barb (Bob) Fay, DuBois; twelve grandchildren, Rob Fay, Katlyn (Jeff) Heverley, Andrea (Arnold) Padillo, Adam Kessler and his fiancé, Nikole Sherry, Alexis (Seth) Danver, Alex J., Anya, Nathan A., Jadon L., Danielle A., Jacob A., and Vincent H. Kessler; two great-grandchildren, Reese and Regan Heverley; four brothers, William J. (Marie) Kessler, Reynoldsville, N. Dale (Judy) Kessler, Grampian, Don A. (Thelma) Kessler, DuBois, and Max R. (Jackie) Kessler, Brockway, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, and two sisters, Margaret Sundie and E. Pauline Bare. Friends and family will be received Wednesday, July 18th from 4-8 p.m. and



Thursday, July 19th from 10-11 a.m. at the Adamson Funeral Chapel, Inc. Following Thursday's visitation, a funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. at the funeral chapel with LaMarr Adamson C.L.P. officiating. Memorial donations may be made to the organization of the donor's choice

**JUL 28, 2018**

**Name** wade hoagland

**Email** greenfieldmetal@yahoo.com

**Where do you currently live?** clark pa.

**Comment** I will edit photos for you , just need a place to email to. wade and tracy. text 724 854 4084

**JUL 17, 2018**

**Name** Peter Tucker

**Email** expheat70@yahoo.com

**Comment** My Dad Carton A Tucker was a plank owner of this ship . I was just looking at some of the history . Thanks , Peter Tucker

**JUL 15, 2018**

**Name** Irvin Elliott Jr

**Email** dick.elliott@att.

**Comment** My father was on the USS Des Moines in 1948 and 1949. I have been going through some envelopes filled with his Navy service. In this info I found 2 certificates one is blank the other has his name hand written in. These are called Plank Owners Certificate's. I also have a water color picture of the USS Des Moines. If you have any interest I could send pictures of these to you, just provide me an address I can e mail to.

**JUL 15, 2018**

**Name** Robert Fay

**Email** r78fay@yahoo.

**Comment** I'm contacting you to let you know my grandpa Howard P. KESSLER of DuBois, PA who served on the USS Des Moines passed away on July 14th, 2018. He served on the ship with B Division from 1956-1958. Once I am able to find his Navy paperwork. Should I email you again regarding his information. If so please email or contact me by phone 814-771-1565. Thank you for your time, Robert FAY

**MAY 28, 2018**

**Name** Dorly Jean-Marc

**Email** jmdorly@free.fr

**Comment** Hello My name is Jean-Marc I bought à Facel Vega car witch was thé property of Lieutenant Thomas T Wright. USS des moines (CA134) He was

bases un France on 1960 , hôtel de Seine un PARIS. Do you havé jus contact? Il will be a pleasure to discuss with hum. Best regards JM Dorly

**MAY 7, 2018**

**Name** julian lupienski

**Email** julski9@aol.com

**Rating** rm1 ret

**Where do you currently live?** gales ferry ct

**Comment** not a crew member.....following obituary appeared local paper the hartford ct courant....theodore (ted) weimer age 80 passed away may 3 2018.....it goes on to say severed aboard the uss des moines in the med until 1959.... gos on, remained active with the uss des moines annual reunions.....to leave a message visit baileycare.com i served aboard a ice breaker...oiler....aircraft carrier....and sub tender.....retired in 79....maybe someone could pass it on to those who knew him.

### **Response to Ted Weimer's Family**

**May 16, 2018**

**The following letter was sent to Theodore Weimer's Family.**

On behalf of the USS Des Moines Reunion Association I would like to extend our sympathy to Theodore's family. His shipmates shared an unforgettable experience with Ted that ties us together forever.

You will find his picture in two cruise books on our website: USSDESMOINES.COM, the 1955-56 book and the 1957 Spring Book; he was in the 7<sup>th</sup> Division. (Anything on the Website can be downloaded). Since he was from CT I assume he went to Boot Camp in Bainbridge. Maryland. We do have a book online for Bainbridge so you can see what his experience would have been like during Boot Camp.

President John F Kennedy - August 1, 1963

"I can imagine a no more rewarding career. And any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worth while, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: "I served in the United States Navy."

Jerry Manriquez

Web Master

USS Des Moines

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**APR 30, 2018**

**Name** Chris Ruffin

**Email** Cmruuff37@aol.com

**Rating** MM2-P1

**What was your Division?** M Division

**Dates Served on Des Moines** 1956-1959

**Where do you currently live?** Baltimore, MD

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**MAR 21, 2018**

**Name** Kara Day

**Email** fordfleet@frontier.com

**Comment** Hello! My dad served aboard the U.S.S. Des Moines from '55 to '59. His name is Homer (Sonny) W. Hess, Jr. and a friend (Carl Fix) that served with him, recently told him that he was listed as deceased. I did find his name in the "deceased roster"! He is alive and well and lives in Martinsburg, WV! Please remove his name from the list. It would be most appreciated! Thank you! Most sincerely, Kara Day

**I also have several wonderful photos of his taken aboard ship with a group of guys... he wrote all their names on the backs of the photos! I'd be glad to share them with you**

**Hi Kara**

Thanks for notifying me of this error. People report the death's of shipmates and I have no way to check if it is correct. I will correct the error within the next two weeks.

He was a YN3 is Yeoman 3rd Class Petty Officer, equal to a corporal in the Army. I found him in the 1957 Cruise Book in "X" Division (I have attached the picture). Carl Fix is also in the picture.

Gerald Manriquez  
Web Master

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**MAR 14, 2018**

**Name** Michael Walker

**Email** michael.r.walker56@gmail.com

**Dates Served on Des Moines** Arland R. Walker 1951-55 (deceased 06/21/16)

**Where do you currently live?** Arlington, TX

**Comment** My father, Arland R. "Mickey" Walker served on the Des Moines from 1951-55. I believe his rank was Chief Bosun's Mate. Not sure. He passed away from Alzheimers in El Paso, TX on 21 June, 2016. I want to find an official portrait of the Des Moines from his time on board. Can you help direct me to the proper site? Thank you, Michael Walker

**Hi Michael,**

Sorry to hear of your Father's passing. I did not have him on my Roster; I will add him to the Deceased Roster.

You can download anything you want from the Web Site. But in case you can't, I have attached a number of pictures of the Des Moines.

Gerald Manriquez  
web Master

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**FEB 26, 2018**

**Name** tom earps  
**Email** tetnba@gmail.com  
**Rating** BT2  
**What was your Division?** B div  
**Dates Served on Des Moines** 1957 to 1960  
**Where do you currently live?** wisconsin

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**FEB 8, 2018**

**Name** Nick Ferranti  
**Email** seaduty30@comcast.net  
**Rank** CDR  
**Rating** SN/RD2  
**What was your Division?** 6th/K  
**Dates Served on Des Moines** - Commissioning 16 Nov 1948- Dec 1952  
**Where do you currently live?** Jacksonville Florida

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**JAN 9, 2018**

**Name** Keith L. Stoner  
**Email** hstoner2@frontier.com  
**Division?** Fox  
**Dates Served on Des Moines** 1953-1957  
**Where do you currently live?** Indiana

Comment I was saddened to learn that my good friend Jack Spearman who served with me on the Des Moines from 1953 to 1957 in Fox Division had passed away on January 7, 2014. Was notified by his widow, Barbara Spearman, 161 Briar Wood Drive, Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

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**JAN 5, 2018**

**Name** John Stevens  
**Email** john.j.stevens1@navy.mil  
**Rank** LT

**Comment** Good afternoon gentlemen, I'm with the Navy Office of Community Outreach and I'll be planning an executive engagement visit to Des Moines in July for Rear Adm. Danelle Barrett, director of the Navy Cyber Security Division. I'm curious if your society conducts reunions in Des Moines or if you choose a different city each year. Further, I imagine you already have a date for the 2018 reunion, but if not, would you consider late July when the admiral will be visiting? Veteran organizations are among our most valued audiences and we love to engage those who have served before us and thank them for their sacrifice. Thank you for your time and consideration. Very Respectfully, LT John Stevens  
Navy Office of Community Outreach (901) 874-5805

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**NOV 30, 2017**

**Name** Susan (Zemartis) Donley

**Email** zemart@aol.com

**What was your Division?** Not me .My brother John Zemartis

**Dates Served on Des Moines** 1953 1955 not sure

**Where do you currently live?** Florida

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**NOV 15, 2017**

**Name** LeRoy Bursch

**Email** twogypsiest@msn.com

**Rating** GMG2

**What was your Division?** 5th

**Dates Served on Des Moines** 1954-1957

**Where do you currently live?** St. James Missouri

**Comment** Forgot to add this GOLD STAR MILITARY MUSEUM 7700 Northwest Beaver Drive Johnston Iowa 50131-2416 This is where the stern plate and bell for the Daisy Mae is on display. Please let the V P know as I told him I would send the address. They have some info about the ship and some pictures. I am sure they would like more info, LeRoy Bursch

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**November 15, 2017**

**Name** LeRoy Bursch

**Email** twogypsiest@msn.com

**Rating** GMG2

**What was your Division?** 5th

**Dates Served on Des Moines** 1954-1957

**Where do you currently live?** St. James Missouri

**Comment** I talked to the V P. and he lead me to you. I want to inform you of the Passing of another shipmate. On Nov. 18th 2017 in Austin Mn. services were held for Gayle Paulson GMG2. He served aboard the Daisy Mae from 1952 until 1956 I believe. I would like to get the news letter you send out. My address is

**LeRoy Bursch 18497 Private Drive 1213 St James mo. 65559** home phone is 573-265-0360 Thank You.

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**November 12, 2017**

**Name** Allen Pettner

**Email** apettner@gmail.com

**Comment** Hello, I wanted to make sure a package I sent arrived. Before your annual reunion this year I sent a box full of original USS Des Moines blueprints and other Des Moines paperwork that was pulled directly from the Des Moines during the decommissioning process in Brownsville TX. I sent to them to Roy Lammy. I just wanted to make sure they arrived to their intended recipients (the men who served on the Des Moines). Thank you for your service! Sincerely, Allen Pettner Brownsville, TX

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**OCT 30, 2017**

**Name** clifford nichols jr

**Email** pilgrim555@charter.net

**What was your Division?** 4th

**Dates Served on Des Moines** 1959-1961

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**EMAIL SENT TO SHIPMATES WHO SERVED FROM 1948 TO 1951**

USS Des Moines Shipmates

My name is Jerry Manriquez, I am the Web Master for the USS Des Moines Reunion Association. I served aboard in Fox Division from Dec. 1958 to Sept. 1960.

[www.usdesmoines.com](http://www.usdesmoines.com)

I have collected a number of Cruise books and data for the website, but I am missing a lot of data from the early years of the ship, **1948-1951**.

If you have any cruise books OR data that is not on the Website would you be willing to send it to me. I will scan it and return it to you within a week.

**Here is a list of Cruise books that are on the website:**

1. 9/3/1952-2/4/1952
2. 8/1952-12/1952
3. 1953
4. 9/1955-1/1956
5. 3/1957-5/1957
6. 2/1958-9/1958

Email me before you send any data so I know what is coming or if someone else has already sent it to me. [jerjoman@att.net](mailto:jerjoman@att.net)

Jerry Manriquez  
3211 Kips Korner Road  
Norco, CA 92860  
(951) 735-8408

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### **OCT 19, 2017**

**Name** Robert Scevers

**Email** legomaster123@sbcglobal.net

**Where do you currently live?** Saginaw Texas

**Comment** I am 19 years old and I am building the USS Des Moines in Lego. I would like to be contacted to discuss details on the ship. I am willing to share photos of my work. My model is 1:116 scale and is 6 feet 5 inches long. I look forward to hearing from you. Sincerely, Robert Scevers 817-734-9676

### **Oct 21, 2017**

Robert, Glad to help you, and we would love to have a picture of the finished project to put on our website.

Good information on the dimensions of the ship plus side and overhead views.

[Cruiser Photo Index CA-134 USS DES MOINES - Navsource - Photographic History of the U.S. Navy](#)

Here is a great video of the History of building the Des Moines Class cruisers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONXYhli8jTA>

Jerry Manriquez

Web Master

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### **OCT 12, 2017**

**Name** Holly Colantonio

**Email** hcolantonio@gmail.com

**Dates Served on Des Moines** 1956 to 1960

**Comment** I am the daughter of Robert Sanford who served on the USS DesMoines. He is listed in your TAPS section, however I would like to see his service dates corrected. He started in 1956 and served until 1960. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

### **October 20, 2017**

**To: Holly Colantonio**

**From: Uss Des Moines Association**

**Robert R Sanford**

Serial number 487-59-58

Holly you said your Father served from 1956 to 1960

The Sept. 1958 Muster List shows him as a Seaman, transferring from the USS Salem CA-139 on Sept. 15, 1958.

The March 1960 Muster List shows him as a Gunner's Mate Third Class (E4) and I think it says he enlisted in Oct. 1956. He is not on the June 1960 Muster List, so he must have been discharged between March and June 1960. I looked in the last Cruise Book (1958) to find his picture but he must have come aboard

right after they published it. Since he was a Gunner's Mate, he would have been in one of the Gunnery Department Divisions which were 1 to 7.

The May 17, 1960 Daily Muster List shows Robert Sanford. I believe this is when he left the ship. Copies of all the Muster List's have been attached.

Therefore the data on the TAPs sheet will be changed on the next update to GM3 and show that he served aboard the USS Des Moines from 1958-1960; not the total time he served in the Navy.

Holly,

If you want your Father's military records (probably over 20 pages of data) send a form to the National Archives in St. Louis. See the article on the Des Moines Website. As his Daughter you will get the records free of charge and it could take 3 to 4 weeks to receive them. The information I show about the National Archive may have been modified, so go to their site online and check it out.

<http://www.ussdesmoines.com/military-records.html>

Jerry Manriquez  
Web Master  
USS Des Moines CA-134

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### **AUG 28, 2017**

**Name** Sheliah Shepard

**Email** Sdsshepard@gmail.com

**Rank** Dad was a seaman

**Dates Served on Des Moines** 1948-1952

Dad is deceased

**Comment** I am writing a book about my father's Nave service 1948-1952. He went through the Great Lakes Naval Training Center. I have a scrapbook dad gave me before his death in 1992. Can you direct me to any primary research and resources that could assist me please. Dad served aboard the USS Des Moines-134. Thank you greatly. I am a retired school teacher in Michigan. My fathers name is John P. Pilon

### **Oct 8, 2017**

I have been so impressed by all of your efforts Mr. Manriquez. I can not tell you how much I appreciate all of your efforts on my father's behalf. I know that I will have a lot of questions as I continue to form my chapters in the book that I am writing.

Future family members will benefit from your efforts when they read my book. I have been spinning off of all of the information and I have not stopped since I opened your latest email this morning.



Thank you so very much sir.  
My father in heaven is smiling down on you!  
Sheliah D. Shepard

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**Jul 29, 2017**

**Name** Joseph Mesics

**Email** jmesics@lmf.net

**Rank** CDR - ret

**What was your Division?** OI & 4th

**Dates Served on Des Moines** JUL 58 - DEC 60

**Where do you currently live?** Cornwall, PA

**Comment** Finally got to my first USS Des Moines (CA-134) reunion THU, FRI 7/27-28/17. So sorry I missed the first 42 reunions. What a great group of guys and what a GREAT SHIP, the Daisey Mae.

**JUL 21, 2017**

**Name:** Joseph Mattia

**Email:** joemattia@aol.com

**Rank Rating:**

**What was your Division?** 6th

**Dates Served on Des Moines:** 1955-57

**Where do you currently live?** Reading, Pa

**Comment:** My father Albert J. Mattia recently passed away on May 19th of this year. My father served on USS Grand Canyon and USS Des Moines, by far his favorite ship was USS Des Moines. He was buried with his USS Des Moines CA-134 hat. He was so proud of his ship he wore his coat and hat all the time. In memory of my Father I got a Navy tattoo of an anchor with CA-134. He was proud to serve his country and extremely proud to serve on the USS Des Moines.

**JUL 9, 2017**

**Name:** Robert L. Bockenkamp III.

**Email:** [rlb\\_nbcnews@icloud.com](mailto:rlb_nbcnews@icloud.com)

**Rank Rating:**

**What was your Division?** R

**Dates Served on Des Moines:** 1951 - 1954

**Where do you currently live?**

**Comment:** Just wanted to tell you my father, **Robert L. Bockenkamp**, a ships Pipefitter on CA-134 USS Des Moines; passed away on Friday, June 23, 2017. He was laid to rest at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetary in St. Louis, Missouri with full military honors and a special ceremony by active members of the United States Navy with representatives from the Pentagon, a United States Senator, a Federal Judge, a retired Lt. General of the U.S. Army, an active Four Star General from the U.S. Army pentagon, an active Naval Rear Admiral, former

Missouri Governor, family and friends. My father attended numerous USS Des Moines reunions throughout the years and had many fond memories of those events and the friends/shipmates that were able to attend. My father reveled in his Naval service and was proud of his time spent on the USS Des Moines. Using his government contacts, he was proud to have been one of the last citizens and former crew members to tour the ship just before its dismantlement. Dad would have wanted me to tell you, his friends, his comrades, his shipmates; farewell and to wish you clear skies and calm seas on the remainder of your journey throughout life.

**May 26, 2017**

**Name:** GySGT Frederick Dauwalder

**Email:** rickandj@mytocn.com

**Rating:** GySGT U.S.M.C

**Division:** Marine Detachment

**Comment:** To Jim Chapman. Jim; Just searching through some old Daisy Mae photos and e-mails. Came upon your e-mail stating you now live in Frisco. As large as the world is, you now almost live around the corner from me. I was a Sgt. And Marine Det. on the Des Moines in 1956-1957. I was searching when the Des Moines was scrapped in Brownsville Tx. I was at the Marine Military Academy from Jan 2 , 1973 to 1983. If she was scrapped during that time I was unaware of it. If I was , I would have gone down (20 miles away) and got something or other as a memento of the ship. Anyway, I live 4 miles south of Princeton. Lake Lavon in view. Semper Fi & God Bless GySGT. Frederick Dauwalder U.S.M.C. ret 1950-1972

**MAY 2, 2017 IP 67.149.248.49**

**Name** Diane Johnston, Sister of Harold Kenneth Brown

**Email** [djohnston3333@yahoo.com](mailto:djohnston3333@yahoo.com)

**Rating** Harold was EM3

**What was your Division?** Dates Served on Des Moines Nov 7, 1957 to Nov 7 1958

**How did you find this website?** Internet Search of USS Des Moines

**Where do you currently live?** Michigan

**Comment** Hi, My older brother Harold Kenneth Brown EM3 served aboard The USS Des Moines between 1957 and 1958. There was 17 years between us and I have been trying to find out about my big brother who I barely knew, as he joined the Navy when I was 2 months old passed away at the age of 20 when I was just 3 1/2 years old. Thanks to your Muster Roll section I was able to find that he was transferred from USS Iowa to the USS Des Moines on Nov 7, 1957 and served there until his death on Nov 7, 1958 when according to the telegram sent to my parents he " was struck by a vehicle while on shore leave in Genoa Italy". That is all we were ever told about his death. Harold joined the Navy on his 17th birthday and was going to reenlist in May 1959. He told my parents he wanted to make it his career. I want you to know that according to his letters and what my parents

told me, he loved the Navy, serving aboard the Des Moines and his shipmates. Thank you for the Muster Rolls that were posted, it fills in a little of my puzzel. I wish I had asked my parents more when there were still here, I know is a long shot, and maybe to much to ask, but if any of your members remember Harold, I would love to hear what they have to say, good or bad. By the way if Harold were alive today I believe he would love what you have done to keep in touch with others that served together PS sorry I don't know Rating and division, I'm not sure which column is which on the rolls except name, rank and service number. Thanks for listening, Diane (Brown) Johnston

Response to Diane (Brown) Johnston

jerjoman . <jerjoman@gmail.com>

Diane Johnston, Your brother Harold was in E Division. He was an Electrician's Mate 3rd Class. I found his picture in the 1957-58 Cruise Book. Here is the link to the Cruise Book: Look on pages 101-104, Harold is in the front row of pictures number two. (copy and paste the following URL's)

[http://www.usssdesmoines.com/uploads/5/9/7/1/59715703/1958\\_cruise\\_part\\_i\\_seachable.pdf](http://www.usssdesmoines.com/uploads/5/9/7/1/59715703/1958_cruise_part_i_seachable.pdf)

[http://www.usssdesmoines.com/uploads/5/9/7/1/59715703/1958\\_cruise\\_part\\_ii\\_seachable.pdf](http://www.usssdesmoines.com/uploads/5/9/7/1/59715703/1958_cruise_part_ii_seachable.pdf)

I have also attached a blown up picture of Harold , the pictures of E Division, the Des Moines Arm Patch and Badge, and an Electrician Mate's Insignia

Jerry Manriquez

Web Master

USS Des Moines

**APR 29, 2017** IP 24.211.173.140

**Name** Nelson Rose

**Email** [bchbumgus@gmail.com](mailto:bchbumgus@gmail.com)

**Rating** RD1

**What was your Division?** OI

**Dates Served on Des Moines** 1955-1958

**Where do you currently live?** NC

**Comment** Noticed that my dates served were not on the roster. This is just an edit. Thanks

Replied to Nelson– Jerry Manriquez

**MAR 27, 2017** IP 173.69.181.200

**Name** JOHN PAEPCKE

**Email** [jecpaepcke@tcdecisions.com](mailto:jecpaepcke@tcdecisions.com)

**Rank** Midshipman 3/C **Rating** What was your

**Dates Served on Des Moines** June/July 1956

**How did you find this website?** Internet search

**Where do you currently live?** Annapolis, MD

**Comment** I was a Midshipman 3/C in the summer of 1956 and the USS Des Moines was part of the training fleet for our 3/C and 1/C Midshipman. I had the privilege of serving my training cruise on the USS Des Moines. During the 6 weeks that I was on board, I fell in love with that ship. I was so impressed with the ship and crew, that if someone had offered to let me stay on board, I would have chucked the Naval Academy and enlisted right there. As it was, I ended up spending 26 years in the USAF. I never got on board again, but every time that I was in Philly, I would go visit her. But I digress; the reason that I dropped this note is that I cannot find any mention of the Lady visiting either Hamburg or Stockholm (our ports of call) in your 1956 Cruise Books. The only thing I can offer are a few picture pages from the 1959 USNA Lucky Bag. I would be happy to scan them and send them to you, but they are primarily pictures of Mid'ns. The fleet broke into smaller units after we reached Europe and the ships were scattered among a number of ports. Please let me know if you would like copies of what little I have. Regards, John

Replied to John - - Jerry Manriquez

John,

The list of ports of call for the Des Moines was on the website. The links are in Blue. I do have brochures which I have not put on the website yet, and there may be one from Stockholm. We would be happy to include your pictures from the 1959 USNA Lucky Bag. Include your Midshipman picture so we can see what you looked like in your younger day and I will put all of it in the Personal Story section. When you scan them, do it at 300 DPI.

I will also include your comments in the Comments Section.

**MAR 19, 2017** IP 71.46.59.135

**Name** Richard Nichols

**Email** [rsherlockn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rsherlockn@sbcglobal.net)

**Rating** Third class gunners mate Rating

**What was your Division?** seventh

**Dates Served on Des Moines** 1952-1956

**Where do you currently live?** BETHEL Ct

**MAR 5, 2017** IP 96.61.2.113

**Name** richard dent

**Email** [rdent@tds.net](mailto:rdent@tds.net)

**Rating** mm2

**What was your Division?** m

**Dates Served on Des Moines** 1948-1953

**How did you find this website?** been here before

**Where do you currently live?** russell ny.

**Comment** trying to find the reunion dates for this year thanks DICK

Replied to Richard – Jerry Manriquez

**MAR 5, 2017** IP 96.237.229.24

**Name** John Martin

**Email** [jmartinandco@verizon.net](mailto:jmartinandco@verizon.net)

**Rating** Sn.

**What was your Division?** Fox

**Dates Served on Des Moines** On board from Springfield, back to Boston to de-commission

**Where do you currently live?** Rockland,Mass.

**Comment** Im trying to get a Daisey Mae patch.

**FEB 28, 2017** IP 45.50.108.117

**Name** Allen Christian

**Email** [wa6srt@gmail.com](mailto:wa6srt@gmail.com)

**Rating** QMSN

**What was your Division?** N Div.

**Dates Served on Des Moines** Till Nov.1952

**How did you find this website?** I researched the internet

**Where do you currently live?** Garden Grove, CA

**Comment** I transferred aboard the Des Moines from the USS Newport News CA 148 at Gibraltar 1952

**JAN 31, 2017** IP 161.97.214.30

**Name** Glen Smiley

**Email** [gfdsmiley@gmail.com](mailto:gfdsmiley@gmail.com)

**Rank:** Midshipman

**Dates Served on Des Moines** Summer 1955

**How did you find this website?** Internet

**Where do you currently live?** Longmont, Colorado

**Comment** I was a USNA Midshipman in 1955 and was aboard the USS Des Moines for my summer cruise to Malaga, Spain (with a tour to Madrid) and Plymouth, England (with a tour to London). I remember it being so hot with no air conditioning that I used to sleep on deck with my fart sack under the No. 3 8" Turret. I was graduated from USNA in 1958 and subsequently served aboard the USS Valley Forge CVS 45, the USS Manley DD 940, NAS Key West and NAVSTA Key West before leaving the Naval Service. Glen F..Smiley

**JAN 17, 2017** IP 73.186.100.70

**Name** Marty Horowitz

**Email** [brittpop@aol.com](mailto:brittpop@aol.com)

**Rating** E-4 GMG-3

**What was your Division?** 5th

**Dates Served on Des Moines** 1960 to decommissioning

**How did you find this website?** association member

**Where do you currently live?** Connecticut

**Comment** "Deck Ape" when I went aboard for 3 months, assigned to side cleaning crew also! Became gunners mates striker, work station Mount 55,

Roland Palmer GM-3 was in charge. Became GMG-3 after leaving after decommissioning.

**JAN 13, 2017** IP 97.115.179.249

**Name** James VAN RIPER

**Email** [p2forever770@gmail.com](mailto:p2forever770@gmail.com)

**Rating** E-6 CT-T

**How did you find this website?** google search

**Where do you currently live?** Loon Lake, WA

**Comment** Doing research on the nicknames of US cruisers during WWII. What was the nickname of the USS Des Moines?

**JAN 9, 2017** IP 76.127.9.236

**Name** Shawn Hayden

**Email** [flatplanet@me.com](mailto:flatplanet@me.com)

**Dates Served on Des Moines** between 1950 - 1954

**How did you find this website?** Through Google

**Comment** My Father, Frank Hayden served on the USS Des Moines in the early fifties. He is now deceased. I am his daughter and living in Santa Fe NM. I have his uniform and it is in really good condition. Its a wool blue uniform. I am looking for a Navy museum or a Korean War museum to donate it to. If you have any contacts or ideas please email me. Thank you, Shawn Hayden

**DEC 4, 2016** IP 67.186.178.41

**Name** JULIAN LUPIENSKI

**Email** [julski9@aol.com](mailto:julski9@aol.com)

**Rating** e-6 ret rm

**Where do you currently live?** gales ferry ct

**Comment** the following obituary appeared in a local paper, the hartford ct courant robert r sanford 78 passed away on dec 1 2016. lived plainville ct. it goes on to say he served in the U S N NAVY stationed aboard ther U.S.S. DES MOINES dates not provided. thought maybe some knew him and would like to know.....to leave condolences visit BAILEY-FUNERAL-HOME.com

**NOV 11, 2016** IP 107.139.109.142

**Name** joseph janis

**Email** [oldcorps@att.net](mailto:oldcorps@att.net)

**Rating** as Caot, USMC 1970 was PFC on board Daisy Rating

**What was your Division?** Marine Detachment

**Dates Served on Des Moines** Dec 1948--Aug 50.

**Where do you currently live?** 814 e 20th st, Santa Ana Ca 92706

**Comment** Family had our name changed from JANOSKEY(JANUSKA) to JANIS in 1955. I was in the Detachment as JANOSKEY and made our 1st med cruise in

"49". Recall Villafranche and all the ports we visited and landing exercises quite well! Princesses Elizabeth came aboard at Valleta, Malta and I recall her lady in waiting came to dinner later that evening in the Captain's cabin along with Cmdr FRAKES.

**OCT 6, 2016** IP 69.126.229.81

**Name** Christopher T. Spano

**Email** [cochise327@msn.com](mailto:cochise327@msn.com)

**Rating** 2nd class Radioman

**What was your Division?** OR

**Dates Served on Des Moines** 1/57 thru 6/60

**Comment** How do I list a lost shipmate. Radioman Mel Fordyce passed away 2 Oct. 2016 Just want to let all know. Is there a place to list those who have died?

**SEP 25, 2016**

**Name**

**MARY SMOLNIK**

**Email**

**MARYVN@HOTMAIL.COM**

**Rank**

**SN**

**What was your Division?**

**Daughter of Edwin N. Gilliland**

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

**NOV 1954 - OCT 1958**

**How did you find this website?**

**GOOGLE**

**Where do you currently live?**

**LAS VEGAS, NV**

**Comment**

**Hello, I would like to correct information in regards to my father. I found his name in the alphabetic deceased on page 28, number 1203. His name is incorrect. His name is Edwin not Edward. His date of his passing was December 9, 2002. His state is Pa, his division is SN. Does anyone have any photos that may have him in it? I lost ones of the ship and ones he had with him in it due to a fire at my brothers home. Any information or pictures I would be grateful to see. I found an old cigarette ration card and a couple pictures of the Everglade Forrestal, a helicopter dated April 1957 that I am willing to share. Thank you for your service now and then. With respect, Mary Gilliland Smolnik**

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**RESPONSE TO MARY GILLILAND SMOLNIK BY JERRY MANRIQUEZ**

I am the web master for the USS Des Moines. I am correcting your Father's name, division and death date on our site. I think the dates you gave me were his enlistment dates (Nov 1954 - Oct 1958). If we did not know the Division we put in the rank or rating and your Father was a Seaman pay grade E-3 (SN)

I found his name on the June 1958 Muster List and the Sept 1958 Daily Muster List. He served in the 6th Division the whole time he was aboard; he came aboard Mar 3, 1955 and left the ship Sept 26, 1958. He was transferred to the USS Wasp (an aircraft carrier) for transportation back to Norfolk, Vir for discharge.

I found some pictures in our 1955-56 and 1957 Cruise books of your Father with his Division as well as the Muster Roll showing the date he left the ship. I will attach to this email. You can download any or all the pictures you find on our website.

If you want all the Navy Records for your Father, you can get them free from the National Archives in St. Louis free of charge for a veteran or his children. I have a tab on the website which tells you about this. The National Archives may have changed some pages on their website, but it should be easy to find out. With this info you would know all the dates he served, his duty stations, his division, promotions, medical records, etc.

[Military Records](#)

I would appreciate any pictures or memorabilia you can share with us.

---

**SEP 11, 2016**

**Name**

**Frank Bean**

**Email**

**macbean@gmail.com**

**How did you find this website?**

**google**

**Comment**

**I don't know how you normally get your info about people, but I wanted to inform you that my father, Richard Bean, who was on the Des Moines from 1950-1952 (I believe) passed away on November 24th, 2015.Sept. 10, 2016**

---

Jerry,

Saw on 8/11/16 guestbook where Richard Ritt's daughter was looking for info.

I had the muster rolls (16mm film and poor digital copies) for 1957 - 1961. Sent all this stuff to Bob Cockerel some years ago. Did he make it available to you?

**You should receive the DVD next week.**

Found the following for Ritt on my digital copy:

"Ritt Richard T. 5309139 SN SN 0 082 0 1258 0000 0000 1000 122258 11 0"

This info was on 1960 Part 2, Reel 1992. Digital file # 00121.

Don't know what some the numbers mean, but I'm sure he came aboard Dec. 22, 1958.

Have enjoyed the new site!



**Leonard Bruffey (IC3)**  
**aboard 6/59 - 3/61**

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**Sept. 22, 2016**

Hi Gerry.

I may have had something to do with this in the past?

I cannot remember how we ran across each other ten years ago (possibly thru an Radioman that had been both on the Des Moines and the Springfield?), Lt CDR Jerry Lafferty (Assistant Sixth Comm Officer) (retired as Capt.) (Docent on the USS Wisconsin in Norfolk when we met again.) and myself began emailing. He mentioned going to Bupers in Annapolis MD and looking at Ship logs for Port list, crew names and dates. Since I/we had crew names and port list for the Des Moines, some of us were looking for a Springfield Port list. Jerry provided a hand written copy of said item in a short time plus mentioning he could obtain microfiche copies of Ship's logs. (The late Jim Aker had been looking for any and all Des Moines records at the time.)

Well, in a month or so I delivered a CD full of records to Jim, whom was beyond flabbergasted that his wish came true! There were other Sixth Cruisers logs included as well.

I have been (half assed) looking for mr copy of said logs to send you, however now you have a copy. (Now what else was I doing?.....)

Ciao. Shipmate,  
**Lou Lockwood**

**AUG 11, 2016**

**Name**

**Edith Ritt-Coulter**

**Email**

**edyritt@gmail.com**

**How did you find this website?**

**google**

**Where do you currently live?**

**Edmond Oklahoma**

**Comment Greetings, My name is Edith Ritt-Coulter, My fathers name is Richard Ritt. He served on the Des Moines in the late fifties-Early sixties. I was trying to get some pictures of him as well as of the ship. I am also trying to help him reconnect with some of his shipmates if possible. kindest regards,**

**Edith Ritt-Coulter**

**Response by Jerry Manriquez**

Do you know what division your Father was in? We may not have a picture of him since the ship did not produce another Cruise book after mid 1958. But, he may have been in one of the ship's newspapers "the Daisy Mae". I recently returned from the Ship's 41st reunion and was given a number of ship's newspapers from 1959-1961. I have not had time to scan and upload them to the website yet. I will probably get to it in the next couple of weeks.

If you want all the Navy Records for your Father, you can get them free from the National Archives. I have a tab on the website which tells you about this. The National Archives may have changed some pages on their website, but it should be easy to find out. With this info you would know all the dates he served, his duty stations, his division, etc.

[Military Records](#)

JUL 30, 2016

**Name**

**Phil Smith**

**Email**

**philipsmith301@gmail.com**

**Comment**

**Hello, I'm the grandson of CPO Daniel Gilbert Smith, whose name appears on the muster roll for 1948, #736, service number 256 93 51 and rank EP3. My father, Albert Philip Smith, is trying to find all his dad's records and such, and I am contacting you on his behalf to see if any photos, documents, or other information are or could be available for Daniel G Smith? Thank you kindly in advance, and I look forward to hearing anything at all. God bless. Sincerely, Philip D Smith [philipsmith301@gmail.com](mailto:philipsmith301@gmail.com)**

Response from Jerry Manriquez

If you want all the Navy Records for your Grandfather; your Father can get them free from the National Archives. I have a tab on the website which tells you about this. The National Archives may have changed some pages on their website, but it should be easy to find out. With this info you would know all the dates he served, his duty stations, his division, etc. They had a fire at the Archive which destroyed millions of records, hopefully not your Grandfather's.

[Military Records](#)

**July 12, 2016**

**Name**

**Philip MITCHELL**

**Email**

**trimotorpilot@gmail.com**

**What was your Division?**

**US ARMY VISITOR**

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

**Visited the Des Moines in 1950 at Villa Franc he**

**How did you find this website?**

**Research**

**Where do you currently live?**

**Las Vegas NV**

## **Comment**

07/13/2016 In 1950 I was a PFC, US ARMY, 1st INF DIV (BIG RED ONE) stationed in Germany. My CO had noted that some of mail was from my oldest brother VANCE JR. MITCHELL, with an address that indicated Commander Sixth Fleet. My CO suggested I should visit my Brother. Orders were cut with a French translation. I was only 16 years of age at the time (enlisted at 15). For the first night arriving in Nice area, I was green as grass. I did not know it at the time but I checked in to the most luxury hotel for the first night. Next day I brother checked me into Hotel Edward VII; I believe was in Ville France. I would ride the Admirals Barge to and from the Des Moines for meals and visits. In the MESS HALL I complimented a CPO on the good food, subsequent visits the CPO would say Soldier how is the chow and wanted me to reply in a loud voice for the benefit of the Sailors. I invited all to visit me in Germany and eat K rations with the Infantry. No takers. I was not allowed to sleep aboard because of QUARTERS ALLOWANCE. One evening after a movie on the fantail I was in the GIG and a man on a yacht was waving at us, it was Earl Flynn the actor. 45 years later I read of this same incident in Flynn's book MY WICKED WICKED WAYS. I wore the French Foureagegear and BIG RED ONE patch on my uniform. People on the street would literally mob me, they remembered the BIG RED ONE some wanted to take me home with them. We drank a lot at the Plantation Bar with a lot of Marines and their GIRLFRIENDS. A French woman was so concerned about my youth and riding the train back to Germany that she escorted me to the train station and gave me Francs. On the train I fell in with Legionnaires and French solders. We exchanged brass insignia from our uniforms. When I got off the train in Germany I could have been taken as a French solider. The showed me pictures of rice paddies in a place they called Indo Cine and wanted to know if I had ever heard of it. I am so sad that the USS DES MOINES was scrapped; it was such a bib thing in my young life. I am now 82 years of age. My phone is 702-498-4875 if anyone wants to talk. My brother **Vance Mitchell, YN3** at the time did typing and dictation recording for ADM Sherman or ADM Ballantine. **Vance was later Commissioned** and worked extensively for CNO, CINCPAC ADM MC Cain, and ADM Geyler. **He is deceased.**

**July 4, 2016**

**Name**

John Jackson

**Email**

johnjackson108@comcast.net

**Rank**

Sfp3

**Rating**

Pipe fitter

**What was your Division?**

R

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

1958...1961

**How did you find this website?**

Google it

**Where do you currently live?**

Deptford, N J 08096

**Comment**

My granddaughter is in Nice,France now. She just sent me a picture of Villefrance, oh what memories. Looks like a marina now.the money exchange building is still there.

**June 2, 2016**

**Name**

Richard Krehling

**Email**

rpkehling@verizon.net

**Rank**

SM3

**Rating**

Signalman

**What was your Division?**

OS

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

1956-1958

**How did you find this website?**

Google it

**Where do you currently live?**

Ashburn, Va 20147

**Comment**

What is the official sit of the 134. I had a problem with my computer and lost every thing I had. Since my check will be getting there late, mark me down as an attending the Reunion

**June 24, 2016**

**Name**

Arnold Lohnes

**Email**

arnie41503@gmail.com

**Rank**

ET1

**What was your Division?**

T

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

1949-1953

**How did you find this website?**

looked up ca134 on google

**Where do you currently live?**

las vegas, nv

**May 31, 2016**

**Name**

Richard Krehling

**Email**

RPKREHLING@VERizon.net

**Rank**

SM3

**What was your Division**

OS

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

56-58

**Where do you currently live?**

Ashburn, Va

**Comment**

I need a list of Motels for the Reunion

---

**May 29, 2016**

**Name**

Amy Childers DuBois

**Email**

Gadubois@yahoo.com

**Rank**

Daughter of Russell Harvey Childers

**Rating**

**What was your Division?**

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

1959-61

**How did you find this website?**

Looking up USS Des Moines

**Where do you currently live?**

Orlando,Florida

**Comment**

---

**May 16, 2016**

**Name**

Jack Moore

**Email**

[Rngunslinger311@gmail.com](mailto:Rngunslinger311@gmail.com)

**My Father was Sgt. Jack Moore**

**What was his Division?**

Marine Detachment

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

1958-1960

**Comment**

Jim, My children thank you, and everyone involved with the reunion group, for posting all those pics and the bio. Wow! That is a great tribute. His grandchildren are spending time with the site as I send this. Thank you very much for all you've done for me in this matter. Semper Fi Marine. Respectfully,  
Jack Moore

-----  
**May 16, 2016**

**Name**

Clifford Davoli

**Email**

[clifdavoli@verizon.net](mailto:clifdavoli@verizon.net)

**My Father was Charles Davoli**

Ltjg but retired as Lcdr in 1961

**What was his Division?**

F

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

1951-1952

**Comment**

Hi Jim Chapman! So glad to hear from you. It was a great gesture on your part to post that fine tribute to my father on the ship's website. My father was very proud of his service in the Navy even though he was not someone to advertise how he felt. I know that such a tribute would have meant a great deal to him. I have shared your website with family members who knew my father and they were amazed and delighted. Thanks so much Jim and you have my best wishes in your noble and important work, giving memories of the Des Moines and that great era in our country's history a continued life. Gratefully yours, Cliff

Note: Cliff sent Dec. 25, 1951 edition of "The Hawk Eye" which belonged to his Father.

---

**May 15, 2016**

**Name**

Michael Quigley

**Email**

quig639@roadrunner.com

**Rank**

Corp E4

**What was your Division?**

Flag

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

July 1958 -Sept 1959

**How did you find this website?**

Via Jim Chapman

**Where do you currently live?**

129 N 3rd Allegany NY 14706

**Comment God**

Bless the Marine Corp !

---

**April 27, 2016**

**Name**

James C Cox

**Email**

oyedboats@gmail.com

**Rank**

**Rating**

**What was your Division?**

---



OI

---

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

---

56-58

---

**How did you find this website?**

---

Nieces husband

---

**Where do you currently live?**

---

Chittenango, NY

---

**Comment**

---

I am Andrew Gallagher, the nieces' husband. Did 20 years in the Navy myself, retired as a BM1 in 2008. I am writing to let you know that your shipmate, James C. Cox, passed away on the 25th of April, 2015. The email listed is my email.

---

**April 26, 2016**

**Name**

Donald P Schaffer

**Email**

[donschaffer7635@att.net](mailto:donschaffer7635@att.net)

**Rank Rating**

IC2

**What was your Division?**

E

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

Aug 1954 to Nov 1957

**How did you find this website?**

Been here before

**Where do you currently live?**

Frisco Texas

---

**Comment**

I found my name listed in the "Deceased" portion of the "Alphabetical Listing" section on the website. I assure you I did not die in 1993. My name is listed as item number 2891 I was a contributor in the original website. I provided a narrative on the origin of the nick name "Daisy Mae" This narrative disappeared when the new website was designed. I also provided the "ports of call" for the 1957 Med Cruise. I was on board when Navy quarterback Heisman Trophy winner George Welch served. I personally watched Bloody Mary deliver flowers to the Admiral when we anchored in Villa in 1956. The instructions say to contact the webmaster, but this is the only contact I could find so I hope this gets to that person and the correction can be made.

---

**April 20, 2016**

**Name**

Phil Roberts

**Email**

[robertspd@gmail.com](mailto:robertspd@gmail.com)

**Rank**

PO2

**Rating**

PERSONNEL MAN

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

1955 TO 1956

**How did you find this website?**

Through the Villefranche reunion group

**Where do you currently live?**

HAYWARD CALIFORNIA

**Comment**

I am sending my 1955-56 Cruise Book and 10 copies of the Daisy Mae Newsletter, of which I was the editor, for inclusion onto the Website.

My 23 months aboard the Des Moines included one tour of the Mediterranean and two summers cruises for Midshipmen where I was in charge of writing stories for their hometown newspapers. I crossed the Atlantic eight times, rode out a hurricane off Virginia Capes where the ship rolled 42 degrees, when 46 degrees would capsize it. We had to strap ourselves into our bunks to keep from rolling out. We had numerous training exercises off Guantanamo with its warm tropical breezes and starry night skies.

I was the Captain's talker at GQ, and I remember one incident clearly even today. A tug off our port bow was pulling a target adjacent to the ship for the eight-inch gun crews. In one firing, suddenly a geyser appeared forward of the tug. Captain Adams ran across the bridge shouting, "Tell them it was a wave." Which it could have been, but I think not. Without a doubt though, Captain Adams was the very best of the three Captains I served under.

Lots of interesting times aboard the Des Moines, and a wonderful growing experience for a 20 year old.

---

**April 20, 2016**

**Name**

Steven Mason

**Email**

[stevemason1940@yahoo.com](mailto:stevemason1940@yahoo.com)

**Rank**

seaman

**Rating**

**What was your Division?**

5th

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

1960 1961

**How did you find this website?**

Just looking for Des Moines

**Where do you currently live?**

Millry Al

**Comment**

She was my 1st ship out of boot

---

**April 17, 2016**

**Name**

Glen Smiley

**Email**

[gfdsmiley@gmail.com](mailto:gfdsmiley@gmail.com)

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

Summer 1955

[http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-](http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=webster&GSfn=david&GSmn=a&GSbyrel=all&GSdy=1999&GSdyrel=in&GSst=22&GScty=1188&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=74290563)

[bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=webster&GSfn=david&GSmn=a&GSbyrel=all&GSdy=1999&GSdyrel=in&GSst=22&GScty=1188&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=74290563](http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=webster&GSfn=david&GSmn=a&GSbyrel=all&GSdy=1999&GSdyrel=in&GSst=22&GScty=1188&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=74290563)  
&df=all&Where do you currently live?

Longmont, CO

**Comment**

I was a USNA Midshipman (Class of 1958) during the summer of 1955 and was assigned to the USS Des Moines for our midshipman cruise. We visited Malaga, Spain and Plymouth, England. I remember it being so hot (without air conditioning) that I took my mattress up on deck and slept under turret No. One.

---

**April 05, 2016**

**Name**

Joe Loch

**Email**

[Joeloch@comcast.net](mailto:Joeloch@comcast.net)

**Rank**

Bm3

**What was your Division?**

2nd

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

02/28/1958 to 03/21/1961

**Where do you currently live?**

Maryland

**Comment**

Planning to go to 6th fleet reunion

---

**April 03, 2016**

**Name**

Paul Rizzo

**Email**

[srchf131@yahoo.com](mailto:srchf131@yahoo.com)

**Rank**

E/5

**Rating**

BT

**What was your Division?**

B

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

4/1/55- 11/15/58

**How did you find this website?**

**Where do you currently live?**

Florida

**Comment**

I was released in Nov. 1958. I then served 4 years on the USS Delong DE 689. I then got out and stayed out for 12 years. I then reenlisted in the Seabee, and served another 20 years, and retired in 1995, as an E/8

---

**April 01, 2016**

**Name**

David Webster

**Email**

[brucewebster61@gmail.com](mailto:brucewebster61@gmail.com)

**Rank**

Rear Admiral (then a LT)

**What was your Division?**

F

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

July 1950 - July 1953

**How did you find this website?**

Google Search

**Where do you currently live?**

Columbia, MD

**Comment**

My father, David A. Webster, was the Asst Gunnery Officer and then Gunnery Officer on the Des Moines from July 1950 to July 1953 under Captains Ellis and Bergin. During one of the two Med cruises while he was on board, General Dwight Eisenhower sailed in Des Moines, prior to his running for and winning the presidency. My father later went on to command three ships, the USS Cromwell (DE1014), USS Buchanan (DDG 14) and USS Dale (DLG/CG 19), retiring in 1975 with the rank of Rear Admiral. Please update your records of deceased, showing his passing on June 15, 1999. He is buried at the Naval Academy.

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GSln=webster&GSfn=david&GSmn=a&GSbyrel=all&GSdy=1999&GSdyrel=in&GSst=22&GScty=1188&GSctry=4&GSob=n&GRid=74290563&df=all&>

I was born while my Dad was at sea in the Mediterranean in November 1952. I've got both of his Des Moines Med Cruise books from that cruise and a previous one. I always wanted to run up to Philadelphia to see the ship before she was turned to scrap, but never had the chance, or made the time.

Thank you for your service to our country. And thank you for maintaining the Des Moines web site!

With much appreciation.

Bruce Webster

---

**March 19, 2016**

**Name**

Bill Navarro

**Email**

[perseus65@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:perseus65@hawaiiantel.net)

**Rank**

E-7

**Rating**

ICC

**What was your Division?**

"E"

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

Maybe August 1957 to Oct 1959

**How did you find this website?**

from Leonard Buffrey

**Where do you currently live?**

In Ewa Beach, Hawaii

**Comment**

While aboard the Uss Des Moines, the ship was the Flagship of the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean sea .We were home ported in Villafranche. Enjoyed my tour very much.

---

**March 18, 2016**

**Name**

Cameron Balaban

**Email**

[thawk5527@aol.com](mailto:thawk5527@aol.com)

**How did you find this website?**

Google search

**Where do you currently live?**

Etowah, TN

**Comment**

I was in the navy stationed in New Jersey from 1999 to 2002. While there, I volunteered to help with the USS New Jersey museum group to turn the battleship into a museum ship. While I did not go aboard Des Moines, I did go over to remove parts from other ships, and took a few pictures of Des Moines while she sat pier side, languishing. I didn't know if you would want the pictures I took in mid 2001, before security on base got tough after Sept. 11. There are only 4 and taken as best I could with the camera I had. Plus the security fences. Let me know, send me an email address and I will send those to you. Thanks.

---

**March 14, 2016**

**Name**

FRED OWEN

**Email**

[study229@gmail.com](mailto:study229@gmail.com)

**Rank**

SN

**Rating**

SHIP'S BUGLER

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

1951 TO 1953

**How did you find this website?**

SURFING

**Where do you currently live?**

L.AFAYETTE, OREGON

**Comment**

Was aboard for about one year. I was one of two buglers aboard then, but can't remember the division. I played on the ship's basketball team. Transferred from USS NEWPORT NEWS TO DES MOINES in either late 1950 or early 1951. My on "relic" of my time aboard is a picture of the ball team.

---

**March 08, 2016**

**Name**

Mel Murray

**Email**

Melmurray@yahoo.com

**Comment**

What happen to the roster list... I would like to look up some friends

---

**February 6, 2016**

From: Louis Lockwood

[elmwoodrr@fuse.net](mailto:elmwoodrr@fuse.net)

Hello Shipmate,

We were aboard the Daisy Mae during the same time!

As for myself, 29 July '59 - 10 May '60 - 1st Div. (Side Boy, Underway Helmsman, #1 Liberty Boat Crew, plus rigging canvas, scrubbing decks, polishing bright work, cleaning fancy work, etc.. )

10 May '60 - 1 March '61 - OR Div, TAD Flag while 6th Flt was aboard, Port Scullery in route back to the USA.

Anyway talked to Jim Chapman a day or so ago and he mentioned you were looking for the Ship's Port List for the last three years.

Said document is attached.

I also have tons of photos, some of which still needs to be scanned. I did a slide show of Villefranche and Ship's Activities a couple of years ago at the Reunion. I also did a CD of photos consisting mainly of the last years of the Ship and when she was towed to Brownsville TX almost ten years ago.

I intend on sending those to you in the very near future, possibly before we leave for Florida the end of this coming week.

I shall look to see if your snail mail address is on the website, if not I will need it. (I see it indeed is.)

My snail mail address is: Louis Lockwood  
10420 Sugardale St.,  
Harrison, OH 45030-1734

Email is the best way to get to me. I check it at least once a day.

(Harrison is on the Ohio / Indiana State line west of Cincinnati on I-74 between Cincinnati and Indianapolis IN.)

I was at Schools Command - RM A School from April '61 until October '61, then on the Springfield until her return to Brooklyn NSY May '63

Merci Beaucoup et Ciao, Lou Lockwood

---

**Date: January 27, 2016**

**Name**

Rob Daley

**Email**

[rdchester@comcast.com](mailto:rdchester@comcast.com)

**Comment**

Roy,

My best friend is James W Pease of Chester, MA who served on the Des Moines '53-'56. Fox Div He currently is battling kidney/bladder cancer.

I viewed on you great site what appear to be embroidered patches and wonder if any are available for purchase.

Thank you for all you do for your fellow Shipmates and

Thank you for your Service to our great Country

Rob

---

**Date: January 20, 2016**

**Name**

Barry Probst

**Email**

[president@ussboston.org](mailto:president@ussboston.org)

**Comment**

Hi Jim and USS Des Moines shipmates,

I want to thank you for Posting the Information on your Website about the upcoming event in Villefranche Sur MER on Jan 20, 2017. I am sure there will be some shipmates that will have an interest in attending or at least knowing about it.

I was just wondering if there might be a way to put in the heading The President Message (Villefranche)? I know that may be pushing it a bit. Thanks again.

Barry Probst

President, USS Boston Shipmates, Inc.

Life Member - USS Springfield CLG-7

Aboard - 1965-1967

---

**Date: January 17, 2015**

**Name**

John Gutekunst

**Email**

[gutekunstjp@gmail.com](mailto:gutekunstjp@gmail.com)

**Rank**

B T

**What was your Division?**

B

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

1957-1958

**Where do you currently live?**

115 3rd St. Jackson, MI 49201

**Comment**

Any plans for a reunion in 2016? Is there a current news letter?



---

**Date: December 25, 2015**

**Name**

carl santheson

**Email**

[svnska@bellsouth.net](mailto:svnska@bellsouth.net)

**Rank**

RM3

**Rating**

RM

**What was your Division?**

FLAG

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

1958 59 60

**How did you find this website?**

SNOOPS

**Where do you currently live?**

FLORIDA

**Comment**

This new format you have is missing the link showing the ports of call for the Des Moines in 58 59 and 60, as was shown in the past. Where to OH GREAT LEADER, I have doubters among my faltering crew. Please advise. SWEDE SANTHESON RM3 ...

---

**Response from the Web Master: Jerry Manriquez**

Hi Carl,

I took over the Web Site in October of this year. The previous web master charged too much and the hosting was very expensive also. I asked the previous web master to send me the data that was on the old site and he could not figure out how to do it so it was lost. Therefore I had to start all over with a new site and I have included data that I have dug up from my own files and others who sent me data. Any information that you have and want to send me for the web site will be greatly appreciated. Any data you send will be attributed to you. I am a volunteer and take no pay for my time and effort.

I am hoping the Reunion Association has cruise books from 1948 to the decommissioning; and from that data I can figure out all the "ports of calls" the Des Moines made. If you have any pictures that you or your shipmates took during your service, please send me a CD with that data, JPG files at least 300 DPI.

Thanks for contacting us.

Jerry Manriquez  
Fox Division  
1958-1960

---

**Date: December 23, 2015**

**Name**

David Fiorito

**Email**

[adfiorito@rogers.com](mailto:adfiorito@rogers.com)

**How did you find this website?**

Google

**Where do you currently live?**

Aurora, Ontario Canada

**Comment**

Between 1955 and 1959 I lived in Messina, Sicily as my parents were missionaries there. If you recall back then the locals would be allowed on board for a visit on a specific day while the ship was in port. When I came on board the sailors that greeted me were quite surprised to see an English speaking kid (I was between 6-10 years old at the time) and I was invited to return the next day and to bring my parents along, which I did. I remember the captain as being a good sized man with greying hair most likely in his late 50's. He was courteous and kind and gave me chocolate cake and corn flakes both of which were not available in Sicily. But the thing I remember most was my mother slowly sipping a cup of American coffee as though it was a \$100 glass of champagne on a 5 star cruise liner (that too was not available in Sicily). She was in absolute heaven and would recall that moment even 30 years later as one of the most enjoyable of her life.

Thank you for the wonderful memories

---

**Date: December 18, 2015**

**Name**

Ron Reeves

**Email**

[pnsy17shop@comcast.net](mailto:pnsy17shop@comcast.net)

**Rank**

E09

**Rating**

HTCM

**What was your Division?**

CMC COMDERSON 30 NRF 1980

**How did you find this website?**

Had on file

**Where do you currently live?**

New Jersey

**Comment**

For your Historian to contact me. I am Head Researcher for [www.navsource.org](http://www.navsource.org) and have just received the link to your CO Listing. There seems to be one name missing from end date of CAPT Lyndon until CAPT Hughes assumed command on 20 March 61. Assuming it was CAPT Lyndon's XO do you have the name ??? A tip for you National Archives can give you the

missing day dates, just email [Archives2.research@nara.gov](mailto:Archives2.research@nara.gov) give your address and association affiliation, and you should hear from them in a few weeks, of if you have someone living in the area, they can make an app and visit. A few additions to your list: Henry Crommelin, there's no middle name. Burkes middle name is Joseph. Please get in touch at your convenience. HTCM. Merry Christmas !!!

jerjoman . <[jerjoman@gmail.com](mailto:jerjoman@gmail.com)>

12:29 PM (20 ho

to hechler.wolfga., pnsy17shop, Thomas

Thanks for the informatin you have on the Des Moines Commanding Officers. I sent the combination of mine and your information to the National Archives to verify the dates. I will send you the results when I get them.  
Jerry Manriquez

---

**Date: November 17, 2015**

**Name**

Richard Krehling

**Email**

[rpkrehling@verizon.net](mailto:rpkrehling@verizon.net)

**Rank**

SM3

**Rating**

Signalman

**What was your Division?**

OS

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

58-59

**Where do you currently live?**

Virginia

**Comment**

Would like to know if I am paid up todote.

---

November 17. 2015

**Name**

Dale Gibson

**Email**

[glodal134@gmail.com](mailto:glodal134@gmail.com)

**Rating**

FTA3

**What was your Division?**

FOX

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

Feb. 1958 until July 1961

**How did you find this website?**

I go to the Daisy May site once in a while.

**Where do you currently live?**

Farm in Knox county Ohio Gambier Mailing address

**Comment**

Looking at the roster of shipmates that I served with I noticed that 2 of my ( deceased ) buddies are not listed in Fox division. Robert G Kondrath # 1796 and James S Vass # 3305 Kondrath and Vass and I worked together in the main battery. Spot 2 over the course of 3 years 5 months that I was on Des Moines I worked in both Gun directors and both plotting rooms in the Main battery. Before I close I want to say that if I had not served on the Des Moines during my teen years ( I had my 18 th my 19 th and my twentieth birthday on board ) God only knows how I would have turned out. As it turned out I retired from the state of Ohio as a Maintenance Director. Thanks to the discipline and education that I received on board.

Thanks Dale Gibson

-----  
<http://www.popularmechanics.com/technology/a19668/1953-video-how-mechanical-computers-work/>

This 1953 training film has you covered. Forty minutes long (all of them good, I promise), it provides a slow, coherent, and exhaustive explanation of *exactly* how gears can do math, all framed in the context of the Navy's now-ancient but still mind-blowingly impressive fire control computers.

Well Dale,

I hope you can learn something from this film.

But, it is probably too late.

Jerry "Manny" Manriquez

-----  
Jerry

You are right it's too late. I ran forward main battery and after main battery plot for 2 years, And in all that time I only recall one time that we had a problem with one of the Mark 1 Able analog computers. In FMBP our 1st class PO Harold Ratka (Deceased Oct. 2015) used a 24" screwdriver and went in and made an adjustment. it was fixed and we had no more problems. Back in the nineteen eighties they considered bringing the Des Moines & Salem out of moth balls instead they refurbished the Iowa and the Wisconsin, An Admiral was asked are you planning on replacing the fire control computers with modern digital ones ? He replied NO they might be faster but they are no better. They were amazing machines. The reason they brought the BB back instead of the Cruisers was there was not enough room on the after deck and down below, to install the Cruise missile systems.

Dale

---

Sept. 27, 2015

**Name**

Albert Tardiff

**Email**

[artsam@sccoast.net](mailto:artsam@sccoast.net)

**Rank**

SN

**Rating**

SA & SN

**What was your Division?**

OI

**Dates Served on Des Moines**

Dec 1958 to Spring 1960

**How did you find this website?**

Googled it.

**Where do you currently live?**

Conway, SC

**Comment**

Many names in OI were berthed forward of the liberty section I was in, which was berthed just to starboard of #3, 8 Inch turret.

Some names I can recall were, Shoemith, P.J.Ellis, Prosper, Harry King, Case, VanSlyke, Hubbard.

Being of French/Canadian descent, I was sent on TAD to Shore Patrol Headquarters in Nice and in Beirut (a former French "holding.") as the interpreter. That was great duty.