

November 4th 2013

09:39:57 AM

What is your name?

RON HOVIS

What year's were you aboard?

1954 -- 1957

What division did you serve in?

NAN

Where are you from?

HAGERSTOWN MARYLAND

Do you have any comments?

DEAR DES MOINES SHIPMATES.

am I somewhat strange or do others feel the same as me ? I was aboard from 1954 to 1957 . I left the ship 56 years ago but I can recall just about everything I did and saw in my 3+ years aboard. as I get older (79) these things come back to me more often than before . I can envision all the spaces I worked in and visited, the mess decks, after steering , pilot house , tact plot , barber shop, sick bay , dental office , my division compartment (N) and where my mates racks were and most of their names . maybe this is because I enjoyed my time on board so much . yes I had some bad days but they don't count . they came about due to my lack of judgement , in other words I got caught.

in my advanced age my memory fails me from time to time but my duty on " DAISY MAE " is as clear as if they were yesterday . I know that I owe that to a lot of great people who taught me , forgave me , helped me , respected me , got mad at me , were glad for me when I was rated, went on liberty with me and above all liked me as I liked them .

had I not had the privilege to serve with all of you as well as the shipmates that I did not know both before and after me , I would have a large empty spot in my life . I thank you all and pray that GOD AND JESUS will somehow bring us back together when we go to our final roll call in heaven where I know we are destined to meet again . until then there will be no G.Q.S, clean sweep downs , no standing in lines , no p- - k -r checks or anything else that at one time we thought were bad , but I would love to have the chance to do them again .

I would like to thank all you career sailors who in fact held us all together . without you there would be no GREAT U.S. NAVY , a navy

that I was privileged to be a part of for a short time .

GOD bless you and your families for all times and thank you for allowing me to be a part of you..

thank you, your shipmate.

KEEP YOUR RUDDER AMIDSHIPS !

RONALD F. (RON) HOVIS , QM2
U.S. NAVY , 1951 - 1957 - KOREAN WAR
U.S.S DONNER , LSD 20, 1952 - 1954
U.S.S. DES MOINES , CA134 1954 - 1957

19806 SCOTT HILL DRIVE HAGERSTOWN , MARYLAND 21742
PH . 301 733 8561 ... EMAIL . HOVRON@AOL.COM

September 29th 2013

07:20:40 AM

What is your name?

RON HOVIS

What year's were you aboard?

1954 -- 1957

What division did you serve in?

NAN QM2

Where are you from?

HAGERSTOWN MARYLAND

Do you have any comments?

MY DEAR DES MOINES SHIPMATES.

as I viewed the 2013 reunion photos I had tears in my eyes . I wish I could have attended but due to age and other reasons I like many others are unable to enjoy the gathering ... please be assured that we are all with you in mind and spirit.

our "DAISY MAE " is gone but many of us remain . I believe that anyone who serves in the United States military will also be allowed into heaven. so it is my hope and prayer when the sad day comes that we also will be gone that when we enter into heaven we find our ship there and as we all request permission to go aboard we are greeted by all our shipmates and then spend eternity with each other as comrades and friends forever ...

sadly since DES MOINES is gone and soon we will also be gone , the DAISY MAE will be forgotten as someday we will be also .all we will

leave behind are our pictures and the stories we told to our families , relatives and friends . I hope that they will remember us .

the best years of my life were spent on US'S DES MOINES CA 134 and the shipmates I met are the greatest sailors ever created , I love you all and miss you more than I can say . I do pray that when we meet in heaven after we salute each other we will give each other a big hug . I know we will meet again..

I believe that we are all patriotic Americans and we still love our country and our flag , and I know that each and everyone of still stand ready to defend and protect our country and flag in any way we can even at the risk of giving our lives if need be . we might be little more than a bunch of worn out old swab jockeys but we can still hold our own and let the enemy know we were there and gave them all they could handle .

thanks for teaching me how to be a man and hopefully a good sailor and shipmate.

till we meet again God bless you and keep you .

VERY SINCERLY.

RONALD F. (RON) HOVIS , QM2
U.S. NAVY , 1951 - 1957 - KOREAN WAR ERA.
U.S.S. DES MOINES , CA134 1954 - 1957

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November 8th 2009

08:02:39 AM

What is your name?

RON HOVIS

Do you have any comments?

Gold Star Museum

7105 Northwest 70th Avenue NOVEMBER 8, 2009

Johnston, Iowa 50131-1824

GREETINGS TO ALL MY FELLOW PATRIOTS.

I cant express in mere words how glad I am to learn that you have

obtained the ships bell from the U.S.S DES MOINES , CA 134..
I am a veteran of the U.S.navy and served aboard the " DAISY MAE " from 1954 to 1957.

I had tried to obtain the loan of the ships bell for several years but due to all sorts of reasons was unable to succeed.. Although I am somewhat disappointed that I was unable get the bell I am very pleased and satisfied that your fine organization was able to receive it . I am sure that it will remain in a place of honor as a tribute to all of the 20,000 plus sailors who proudly served on Des Moines and to all the navy veterans no matter when or where they served .

Our proud heavy battle cruiser has been scrapped and is no more except in our memories , but as your grande museum is now the custodian of her bell I am sure that I can speak for all of my shipmates that you have set our minds at ease by knowing that this honored part of our ship will be guarded and preserved by you forever , you have our heartfelt thanks..

May 25th 2009

08:41:07 AM

[What is your name?](#)

RON HOVIS

[Do you have any comments?](#)

HELLO TROOPERS ,

attached is a letter i received from the USS LEXINGTON museum in Texas ...
maybe some of you ole gunners mates might be able to help them out .

i cant do them any good because we quartermasters were not allowed to play with gunsRON HOVIS.

XX
XXXXXXXXXXXX

Good Morning Ron,

My name is M. Charles Reustle and I am the Operations and Exhibits Director on board the USS Lexington in Corpus Christi Texas. I received your request and will certainly contact Frank Thompson. I also felt that you should know the Lexington saved two of the 5 inch

guns off the Des Moines and we are currently reconditioning them for display along with signage telling the history of the Des Moines. If you are in contact with any former crew that worked the 5 inch guns please have them contact me as I could use some information, photos, artifacts and maybe some personal stories from those who manned the guns. Your association may even consider having a reunion in Corpus Christi. We have a web site you can visit and the Special Events office is the department that could help you with any plans.

Thank-you

M. Charles Reustle
Director of Operations and Exhibits
USS Lexington Museum on the Bay
www.ussexington.com

May 21st 2009

05:33:13 AM

What is your name?

RON HOVIS

Do you have any comments?

TO ALL MY NAVY SHIPMATES , FRIENDS AND PATRIOTS ... I HAVE BAD NEWS !

we have lost our bid to have the ships bell from our " DAISY MAE " awarded to the town of Smithsburg , Maryland .

there is a military museum named " the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum " located in Johnston Iowa , a suburb of Des Moines which has also made application to be awarded the bell and it has been granted to them by the navy historical center .

although I am personally very disappointed I am glad that the bell will be protected and honored as it should be , and I take solace in that . I will attach the letter I received from the director of the museum .

RON HOVIS

XX
XXXXXXX

Dear Mr. Hovis,

Thank you for the email that you sent to us.

Yes, we will exhibit the bell and the name plate of the USS Des Moines at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum at Johnston, IA, a suburb of Des Moines. You will be interested to know that we also have acquired the actual USS Des Moines stern name plate, which measures 2' X 20' for the museum. It will be exhibited at our museum along with the other artifacts that we may acquire.

The new addition to the museum and remodeling of the current building will be completed in Dec 09. We will be moving all our exhibits into the new structure so it will be a few months before all is in place.

We invite you to visit our facility if you ever get to the Des Moines area.

RUSSELL V. BIERL
COL (Ret)
Director, Gold Star Museum
515-252-4531