



USS Lafayette SSBN 616 Association

Visit Us on the web at:
ssbn616.homestead.com

Message from our President

Greetings Shipmates,

Its official, Jacksonville, Florida will be the location for the 2015 Lafayette Reunion.

I would like to first take this opportunity to give Dennis Lauze and his team a BRAVO-ZULU for one of the most memorable and largest reunions so far. I think everyone had a great time, I know I did! I thought the Groton Inn & Suites did an excellent job and the hospitality was exceptional. The activities were excellent and there was never a dull moment. I was particularly impressed with the "Tolling of the Bells" ceremony, for those who are on eternal patrol; I thought it was well done.

Now that we have decided on the location, we intend to move smartly into the planning of the 2015 reunion. Don McBride has agreed to do a lot of the leg work as he lives in Jacksonville and can contact the hotels, the Public Affairs Office at Kings Bay, and other tour and activities available. Jacksonville has many attractions and we plan to make the most of our time there. It is a golf mecca for those of you who golf and the beaches and shopping are exceptional. Bill Lilles who lives close by in Georgia said he would be glad to be the committee chairman and Carl Brown who lives in the Tampa Bay area said he could assist as needed. If anyone else would like to help out let me or Bill Lilles know. Tim Cole has offered to help Carl get out newsletters as we progress with the planning. We continue to have a great team carrying on the traditions of an excellent submarine USS Lafayette SSBN-616. Dennis Lauze (Board Chairman), Gary Christopher (Vice President), Joe Geiger (Treasurer), Bill Lilles (Secretary), John Fornicola (Chaplain),

Carl Brown (Newsletter Editor), Bill Fraser (Web Master), Robert Porter (Historian), John Sherman (By-Laws Chairman) and Pierre Messier (Ships Storekeeper) Also, we have assistants for most all of the hard jobs, Wayne Phillips (Assistant Secretary), Spud Woods (Assistant Web Master) and Tim Cole (Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Newsletter Editor).

This Reunion we plan to have special name tags to indicate if this is your first reunion to ensure you receive a special Lafayette welcome. There will be no flashing lights involved but it will be a subtle way us old timers can tell if it is your first one. We hope to find a Commanding Officer who can attend, witness the camaraderie and say a few words at our Banquet. We hope to be able to offer tours of a submarine again this Reunion, however I'm sure this will be limited to only a few of us in number because of the security requirements, but, I can assure you it will be determined fairly, by lottery, as was done at Groton. Other tours at Kings Bay should be available and will depend upon the PAO. We are planning a tour to St Augustine which is only 30 miles or so from Jacksonville. Lots of history there. Again, we will need a great deal of help putting this reunion together, so if you live close and/or are willing to help, please contact me or Bill Lilles. I plan to check it out extensively during the 2014 Reunion of my shipmates that



Tom Tinney
President
Lafayette Association

Cont.: Message from our President

served in USS Argonaut SS 475 and try to get a handle on the details as much as possible the year before our reunion. We know the time of year in Florida can really affect the turn out, so, we want to get it scheduled before it gets too hot and after it quits raining and it is not bitter cold. I am asking Don to give us some help with the weather guessing and I need some input from the membership to see how many people still have children in school.

We are all members the best two submarine crews. Your efforts during the Cold War made a significant difference in keeping the freedom that is so precious in the world today, allowing us, to gather and celebrate these accomplishments and reminisce. So, ensure your dues are paid-up and come out to a reunion

How to become a member of the Association

The Association annual dues are \$10.00 and are collected in two year increments of \$20. A secure payment can be made by checks can be mailed to the Treasurer at:

Joe Geiger, 2211 Riding Ridge Rd, Columbia, SC 29223

If you have questions email or call Joe Geiger at:

geigercounter616@gmail.com or 803-446-5258



USS Lafayette Association Board & Committee Members

Board

Name	Position	Lafayette	Phone	Email
Tinney, Thomas	President/Board	Gold 64-71 MMC	601-661-6168 601-218-1010 C	ttinney475@att.net
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Liles, William	Secretary/Board	Gold 71-72 MM	229-423-2897 229-457-1419	liles.bill@gmail.com
Geiger, Joe	Treasurer/Board	Blue 68-70 QMC	803-736-3870 H 803-446-5258 C	geigercounter616@gmail.com

Appointees

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Cole, Tim	Assistant Treasurer/ Assistant Newsletter Editor	Gold 65-69 MT	207-363-0968	ssbn616_rocketman@live.com

Attendees of the Reunion for First Time

Tim Printy

My wife and I truly enjoyed the reunion. We did not attend all the functions but did enjoy the social events at the hotel. We look forward to the next in 2015 and hope to attend

Randy Ritchie

I had a great time at the reunion, and plan more for the future. Besides seeing shipmates I hadn't seen in decades I very much enjoyed each of the events through the week. I'm looking forward to seeing many of the same faces & hopefully many more in 2015

Bob Rogers

This was my first reunion, as well, but hopefully will not be my last. I didn't take part in any of the activities except for the grand banquet Saturday evening, and the picture taking beforehand. I was reunited with 2 Shipmates that I served onboard with and saw 2 others that I used to work with but they served at different times

Carl Brown

This was my first reunion, however, I knew in time about the one in Washington State, but made the decision not to attend. After being with my shipmates in Groton this past May, I realized now what a mistake that decision was. I never would have realized the significance of seeing men that I served with, how the emotions of love and friendship could be stirred up within me. How being with men who served aboard the Lafayette prior to my time and after, what that fellowship of our related services meant to each present. There were no big or small people, officers or enlisted, just men who shared in a common cause. And to tell you all the truth, I have not worked in a relationship that could come close to the relationships that I developed aboard the USS Lafayette SSBN Blue or Gold. My only regret is that there weren't more of you with me that served from 1972 through 1976 periods. I encourage everyone that reads this note, to please make plans to be in Jacksonville for the 2015 reunion. If it be the Lord's Will, I will be there to meet you all...

Comments shared on Facebook

Gregory Peet

Fair Winds and Following Seas (Safe Travels) to all who are travelling back home today and next few coming days from the Reunion. Its been an unbelievable weekend catching up with everyone from the '80s crew, and meeting all that attended from the crews that came before us. Looking forward to seeing you all, and hopefully more of our shipmates, in two years at the next one, wherever it may end up being.

Gregory Peet

In the interest of reaching out to more Shipmates, I've started a Lafayette Alumni Group on LinkedIn, another "Professional" Social site. If you've got a LinkedIn profile, send me a "Connection Invite" and we'll start building up another resource....

Michael Hodges

For those interested in returning to Holy Loch, here's a link to the Site One Association's 2013 Reunion. If you go to their main webpage, there's lots of pictures and history of Site One.

<http://thistlegroup.net/reunion/2013/index.htm>

Gregory Peet

As everyone's memories have been sharpened a bit over this weekend, I've always been curious.... thinking back, waaaay back for some of us... what was you're first memory of exposure to Submarine Duty that made you want to become a Submariner and/or drew you into Sub Service? For me, it was reading the books written by and based on Capt. Edward L Beach's sub service as a kid : Run Silent, Run Deep; Cold is the Sea, etc. When they asked me if I wanted to Volunteer for Sub Service, all those images in my head from those books, and others, flooded my brain and I couldn't resist....and it was something no-one else in the family had done. One Uncle was a Tin Can sailor, another was a retired Airdale, Subs were mine for the taking....

Gary Christopher

Had a great time at the Lafayette reunion these past 4 days. Good to see some of the old gang, meet some of the old(er)-timers, and some of the new(er) guys. Liz had a blast as well. Made some new contacts and reestablished contact with some former shipmates. Shame that I missed the only event that Ken Allor, [James Charbonneau](#) and [Mark Basnight](#) attended... Oh well, maybe next time. For those of you out there that missed this one, hope to see you at the next one, wherever it may be.



Navigating Medicare



By Tim Cole MT '65-'69
Medicare Counselor
Southern Maine Agency on Aging

In each newsletter I'm discussing important information that affects, or will affect, all of us. If you are new to Medicare or Social Security, please visit past issues.

Bonus Bucks

In this and the next newsletter, I'm going to address a couple commonly missed entitlements that could increase your Social Security benefit. You are entitled to extra earnings credits for military service years between 1940 and 2001. After 1968, those credits were automatically added to your earnings each year. If you had active duty years prior to January 1969, it's very important that you notify the SSA (Social Security Administration) of your months in the military. You'll have to present a certified copy of your DD-214. I advise you to always visit your local Social Security Office for any discussion about Social Security or Medicare matters. When it comes to complex issues, I've never gotten satisfactory results from the folks at 1-800-772-1213.

You will be credited with \$300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which you received active duty pay from 1957 through 1968. In other words, \$1,200 will be added to your earnings for each full year you served. For some years, it may more than double your earnings. The SSA adjusts past earnings to the Current Price Index when calculating benefits, so \$1,200 in the 1960s may be equivalent to \$12,000 or more today. Typically, servicemen will find their adjusted earnings for those years now exceed \$25,000, which can put those years in your top 35 income years, from which your benefit is calculated.

Prior to 1957, the SSA did not tax military personnel on active duty. So they later generously credited servicemen \$160 for each month of active duty. Adjusted earnings for some of those years could exceed \$50,000.

If you had active duty prior to January 1969, I strongly recommend you download the Detailed Calculator that the SSA uses to calculate your benefit, and do the calculations yourself. Go to www.ssa.gov/OACT/anypia/download.html, and follow instructions. I've found that the SSA has not always accurately entered dates for military service. You may find that you are entitled to hundreds of dollars more a month.

Every state has a federally sponsored Agency on Aging that will give you free and unbiased help with selecting comprehensive Medicare coverage. The link to find the agency in your area can be found at www.eldercare.gov/Eldercare.NET/Public/Index.aspx.