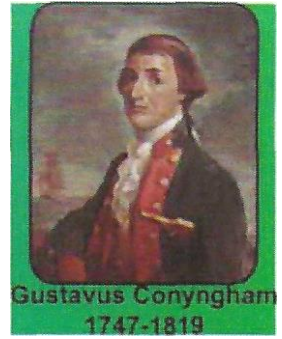


USS CONYNGHAM ASSOCIATION DD-371 - DDG-17

# The PRIVATEER



Volume 30 Issue 1

The "Cony-Maru" And "Gus Boat"

January 2024

*Happy 2024!!!*



(We all start out in diapers and . . . . Just saying!!)



## *President's Message*

Greetings Shipmates,

Happy 2024!! Here's hoping this is a better year than last, as we always strive for happiness and joy in our lives.

Lisa and I look forward to 2024's Reunion in Norfolk/Virginia Beach, VA. For me, it has been 42 years, and for many, since we left the ship, that we have returned to NAVSTA-NORFOLK. The dates and hotel and tours are set (see reunion information page).

The USS Conyngham Associations Executive Board continuously and actively seeks new ideas for the association, reunions, merchandise from the ships store and the well-being of our shipmates and families. Our membership is limited, for obvious reasons (1963-1990), thus we explore the best ways to continue the "can-do" attitude we are so familiar with.

Be well, carry on. See you there!  
Kirk Williamson, President  
USS Conyngham Association

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## *Treasurer's Message*



Happy New Year,  
I am so looking forward to this new year, it should bring many surprises. With it comes our next reunion in May. I may bring a guest this time we will see. I am encouraged as I have heard from a couple of people who were with me on the Gus. I hope they will come as it is a great benefit to all that come. Also, with this new year, the account balances are coming up. Currently we have \$5792.95 in checking and \$1733.91 in Savings. This is after several reunion deposits to the hotel. I want to thank John Barone for going through the records and verifying them. It is important for me to be as transparent as I can with them. I am not perfect and having someone verify is very important.  
Also remember I have the ships store. If you are interested in anything let me know.

John

**John Gosper**  
**119 Homestead Dr., Nicholasville, KY**  
**40356**

Personal checks or money orders should be made out to "USS Conyngham Association".  
Please do not send cash.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Treasurer Message
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- Page 14 Association Officers,  
Contributions to PRIVATEER

**Insert 1** 2024 Reunion Registration/Dues-Pay  
(to: Treasurer-John Gosper)

**Insert 2** 2024 Reunion Registration/Tours-Food  
(to: Reunion Chair-Kirk Williamson)

## TAPS (DD-371 & DDG-17)

**DDG-17**  
(NONE TO REPORT)

**DD-371**  
(NONE TO REPORT)

Welcome to the new members who have joined the Conyngham Association and thank you to those who have renewed your membership. Annual dues remain \$17 per calendar year (January 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup>) and can be paid in advance if you desire.

Hopefully our numbers will continue to grow. It’s the support of Members like you that keep this Association going strong.

All payments for dues or reunion fees should be sent directly to:

**John Gosper, 119 Homestead Dr., Nicholasville, KY 40356**

Please do not send cash.

Personal checks or money orders should be made out to “USS Conyngham Association”.





Naval Station Norfolk



D&S Piers



Nauticus in Norfolk



**Holiday Inn & Suites: Virginia Beach – North Beach**  
**3900 Atlantic Ave., Virginia Beach, VA, US**  
**(757) 428-1711**

USS Conyngham Association @ **\$129.00 rate**  
 (Rooms available from 3 days before & after **BASED ON AVAILABILITY**)

**SUNDAY, MAY 05, 2024 – THURSDAY, MAY 09, 2024**  
**APRIL 05, 2024, CUT-OFF/DEADLINE**

**NEW**  
**Booking website:**  
[https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/find-hotels/select-roomrate?fromRedirect=true&qSrt=sBR&qIta=99801505&icdv=99801505&qSIH=ORFOB&qCiD=05&qCiMy=042024&qCoD=09&qCoMy=042024&qGrpCd=USS&setPMCookies=true&qSHBrC=HI&qDest=3900%20Atlantic%20Avenue,%20Virginia%20Beach,%20VA,%20US&srb\\_u=1&qRmFltr=](https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/find-hotels/select-roomrate?fromRedirect=true&qSrt=sBR&qIta=99801505&icdv=99801505&qSIH=ORFOB&qCiD=05&qCiMy=042024&qCoD=09&qCoMy=042024&qGrpCd=USS&setPMCookies=true&qSHBrC=HI&qDest=3900%20Atlantic%20Avenue,%20Virginia%20Beach,%20VA,%20US&srb_u=1&qRmFltr=)

(One Vehicle FREE parking; Airport Shuttle NOT Available)



USS Wisconsin BB64



Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel

## USS Conyngham 2024 Reunion TOURS

Hotel: Holiday Inn & Suites North Beach: 3900 Atlantic Ave, Virginia Beach  
Coach: Venture Tours

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### Monday, May 6, 2024

8:00am One Colonial Connections staff and one coach arrive at the hotel; load all passengers.  
8:30am Coach departs for *Military Aviation Museum*  
9:15am Arrive Aviation Museum  
Guided and self-guided tours

The Military Aviation Museum is home to one of the largest private collections of World War I (P-51 Mustang) and World War II era military aircraft (Corsair and ME-109 Messerschmidt) in the world. Each has been beautifully restored to its prior military condition, using original parts whenever possible. Most of the planes are airworthy and flown at the museum during flight demonstrations and at air shows throughout the year. The museum is constantly growing as new aircraft and aviation-related ground equipment are added to the collection.

11:45am Depart for lunch.  
12:15pm \$20 meal certificates provided for lunch at Sage Kitchen  
1:15pm Load coach and depart for *Virginia Aquarium*  
12:45pm Arrive and tour the Virginia Aquarium

Explore over 800,000 gallons of one of the best aquariums and live animal habitats in the country at the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center. Check out hundreds of hands-on exhibits, outdoor aviary, nature trail, and marshlands.

3:00pm Load coaches  
3:20pm Arrive hotel.

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### Tuesday, May 7, 2024

9:00am One Colonial Connections staff and one coach arrive at the hotel; load all passengers.  
9:30am Coach departs for *Nauticus Museum/USS Wisconsin*  
10:00am Arrive Nauticus and the USS Wisconsin  
Free time to explore Wisconsin/ Museum

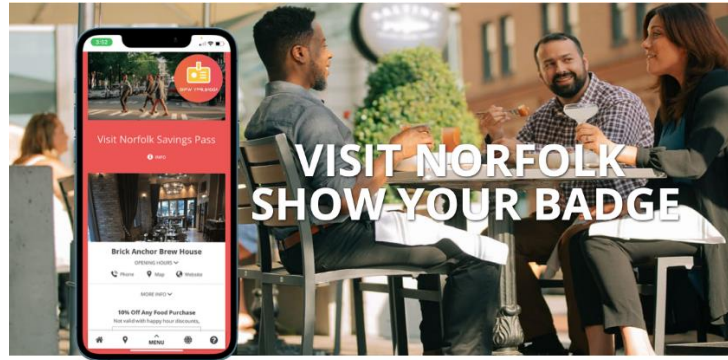
*Participants are on their own for lunch.* Options: Café at Nauticus or located a block from Nauticus is Waterside Norfolk. Options: Stripers Waterside, Guy Fieri's Smokehouse, Rocky Mountain Grill

1:30pm Regroup at in front of the *Victory Rover* for a two-hour cruise 2pm-4pm

Enjoy a fascinating and entertaining commentary aboard this Navy-themed vessel. See aircraft carriers, nuclear submarines, guided missile cruisers and all the other ships that form the world's most powerful fleet at Naval Station Norfolk. On board, guests will enjoy plenty of comfortable seating, an air-conditioned enclosed deck, and an open-air upper deck.

4:15pm Participants load coach and depart for hotel.  
4:45pm Arrive hotel.

# Show Your Badge Pass



Welcome to Norfolk! Our Show Your Badge savings pass offers exclusive discounts and promotion and meetings and convention attendees to some of our best attractions, restaurants, and retail! Mobile pass offers are sent directly to your phone via text and email. Simply click the link you receive and present the digital coupon to the business at the time of purchase—no apps required!



## Visit Norfolk Show Your Badge Savings Pass

**FREE**

- Mobile exclusive
- Instantly delivered via text and email
- 

No apps to download  
Save on the best of Norfolk!

Get Your Pass!

## How this Pass Works

### Step 1 - Get Your Pass

This mobile exclusive passport is a collection of curated attractions, retailers, restaurants and more and offering deals and discounts to redeem during your visit.

### Step 2 - Receive Text

Your passport will be instantly delivered to your phone via text and email and is ready to use immediately! There is no app to download. Your pass can be saved to your phone's home screen for easy one-tap access.

### Step 3 - Redeem

When visiting a participating business, simply present your phone to the attendant or staff member to redeem available discounts.

<https://www.visitnorfolk.com/show-your-badge-pass/>

## Minutes of General Meeting

Annual Reunion – Philadelphia PA, June 10, 2023

1. **Memorial Honoring Departed Shipmates**

President Kirk Williamson stated there is no list of departed shipmates from DD 371 and DDG 17.

2. **Welcome and Acknowledgement of Members:**

All the members present introduced themselves and made statements of their choosing.

3. **Reading of 2021 Minutes:**

A motion to waive the reading of the 2021 minutes was made and second, passed by all.

4. **Treasurer’s Report:**

John Gosper gave his report on the state of the association treasury fund. A report was distributed to the membership disclosing all receipts and expenditures covering the period forward from the 2021 reunion. An audit of the financial accounts was made by Warren Wilde and John Barone from DDG 17. All association finances were found to be in order. A motion was made to accept and passed by membership.

5. **Correspondence:**

The family of Charles Kaa Sponsored the open bar for this reunion.

6. **Old Business:**

2024 Reunion: Kirk Williamson gave an update to the membership for the 2024 reunion in VA Beach. Reunion to be held May 5- 9 at **Holiday Inn & Suites VA Beach**. Tours to be waterside Norfolk at the Nautilus and USS Wisconsin. Information and registration forms will be in upcoming issues of the Privateer.

7. **New Business:**

- A. The 2025 reunion location was selected by the membership through a nomination and vote tally process. The winning location was Branson, Missouri. Kirk Williamson & Pat Cunningham. The locations up for the 2025 reunion. The first-round voting results were Baltimore = 9 votes, New Orleans = 4 votes, Branson, MO = 10 votes. The Second-round voting results Baltimore = 10 votes, and Branson, MO = 14 votes. New Orleans will be carried over to the next reunion nominated locations for the 2026 reunion.
- B. There was a motion to allow shipmate family members/partners/significant others to become associate members of the association. Motion made by Warren Wilde second by Dave Walker. The membership vote was unanimous. The next motion made by Joe Puls and Second by Dave Walker “These associate members would be able to attend the Annual Business Meeting” and the motion was extended to amend current bylaws, specifically article 7, regarding elected officials and Executive Committee, to allow associate members to hold elected/appointed positions **Excluding President & Vice President**. The membership vote was again unanimous.

8. **Election of Officers:**

Nominations and Voting for All Officer position on the Executive Board. All who won by vote tally accepted the positions; motion was seconded and passed by the membership.

9. **Installation of Officers:**

Rich Greene was asked to administer the “Oath of Office”; Having done so your Officers are:

President:	Kirk Williamson
Immediate Past President:	John Burkhard
Vice President DDG 17:	Dave Walker
Treasurer:	John Gosper
Secretary:	John Burkhard
Editor of the Privateer:	Kirk Williamson

10. **Adjournment of Meeting:**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting, second and passed by membership.

Submitted by John Burkhard



## *Ships Storekeeper*

Greetings from the Ship's Store.

Here are a few options to purchase your USS Conyngham merchandise/ swag:

1. "Off the Grid"
  - a. Call or email the Ship's Storekeeper (S/S) with an order request (including Ship's clothing)
  - b. S/S will provide pricing for merchandise +shipping/handling
  - c. The Purchaser will MAIL A CHECK TO THE SHIP'S TREASURER (S/T)
  - d. S/T will notify S/S upon receipt
  - e. S/S will ship out order
2. "Invoice" (min. fees apply).
  - a. Email S/S with order (w/exception of clothing)
  - b.
  - c. Pay electronic invoice
  - d. S/S will ship order "Invoice" (min. fees apply)
3. Ship's Clothing order  
<http://www.logosoftware.com/shops/USSConyngham>
  - a. Connect to the URL. above
  - b. Order and pay online
  - c. Receive your clothing merchandise

S/S = John Gosper (859) 539-0995      [conynghamtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:conynghamtreasurer@gmail.com)

S/T = John Gosper (859) 539-0995      [conynghamtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:conynghamtreasurer@gmail.com)





**USS CONYNGHAM ASSOCIATION**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024

**AVAILABLE FUNDS FORWARDED 12/01/2023**

**\$8,063.80**

<u>Transaction</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Balance</u>
			\$8,063.80
Dues Collected	\$51.00		\$8,114.80
Donation			\$8,114.80
Reunion	\$1,437.00		\$9,551.80
2024 Reunion Expense			\$9,551.80
Administrative Costs			\$9,551.80
Ships Store			\$9,551.80
Dividends received	\$00.06		\$9,551.86

**2024 Reunion**

Registrations Fees Received	\$1,437.00
Registration	
Expense:	\$0.00
	\$0.00
	\$0.00
Total	
Received	\$1,437.00

\*\*\*\*\*

Registration/Tour Refunds	\$0.00
Buffet & Banquet Rm Cost	\$0.00
Hospitality Room Costs	\$0.00
Reunion Booklets & Name Buttons	\$0.00
Miscellaneous and Transportation	\$0.00

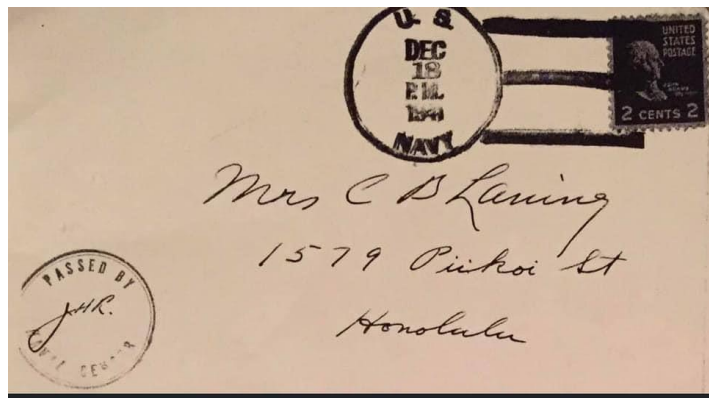
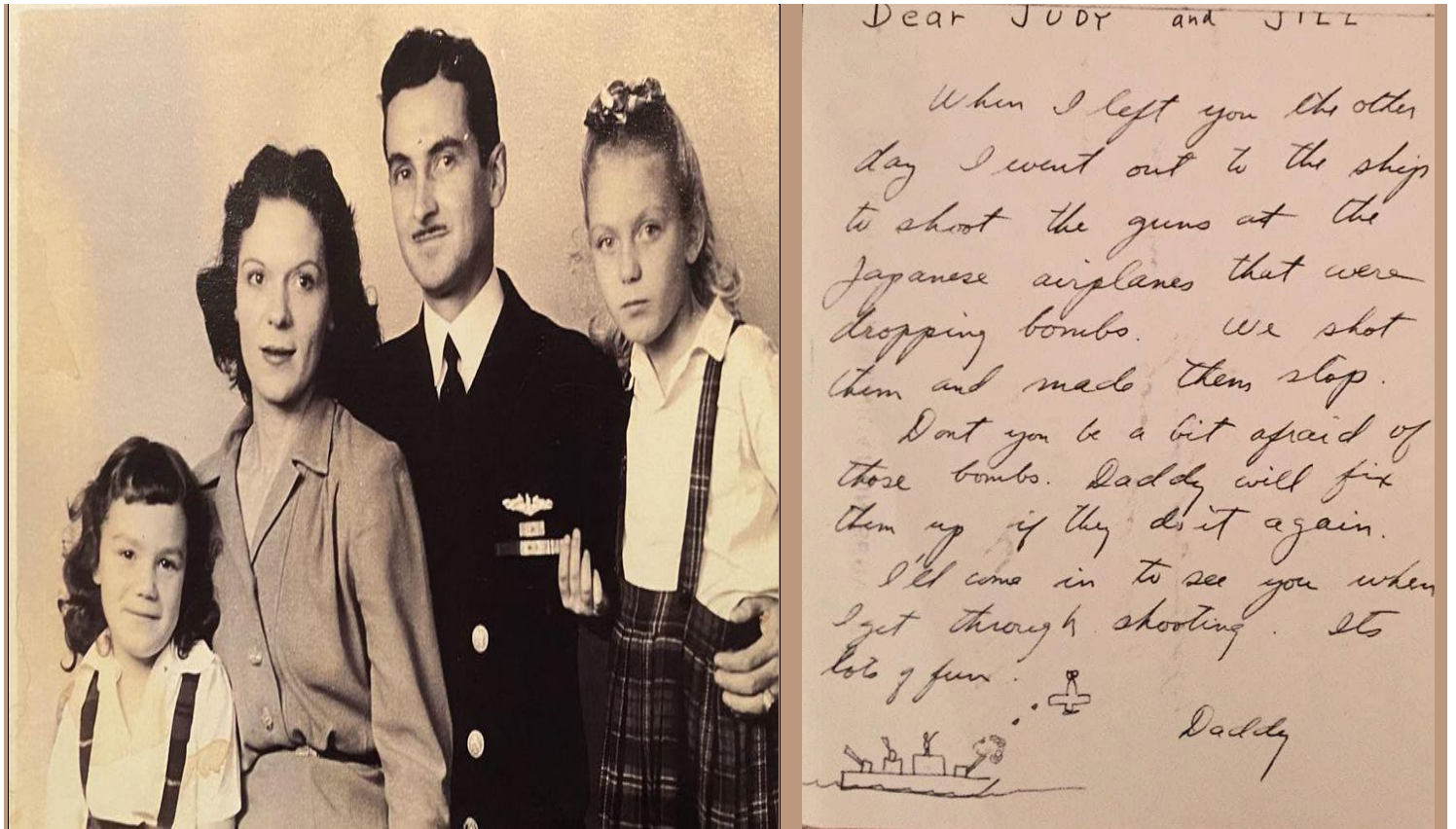
**Balance    \$9,551.86**

**Sept. Transactions**

Dividends Received:	\$ 00.06
Administrative Costs:	\$ 00.00
Newsletter:	\$ 00.00
Dues Paid:	\$ 00.00
Reunion Refund :	\$ 00.00
Ships Store Sales/Auction:	\$ 00.00
New Member(s):	\$ 00.00

DD-371

My mom passed away yesterday, the little girl on the left. Her father, Caleb Laning, was an executive officer on the USS Conyngham DD-371 when it was moored in Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. My mother and sister rode in the car to the harbor with their parents that morning to get my grandfather to his ship when the attack began. Their car was strafed by Japanese fighter planes. The strafing, explosions and bombs falling are all part of my mom's first memories in life; she was 4 years old. December 7th was always a meaningful day in my family since it was witnessed and survived by my mother, aunt, and grandparents. December 7th will be particularly hard for us as we no longer have her to re-tell the story of our family on that day. But I can take comfort in knowing that the foursome in this picture will all be together again on Dec 7.



## Here are some historical events related to the U.S. Navy:

- 1781: The French fleet defeats the British at Yorktown, Virginia.
- 1794: Congress authorizes the construction of six frigates after Barbary pirates destroy U.S. commerce.
- 1798: President John Adams signs a congressional act establishing the Department of the Navy.
- 1910: The Navy Department organization first mentions aviation.
- 1918: The USS Tampa is lost with 118 people.

*On September 26, 1918, the USS Tampa was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine UB-91 off the coast of England. The Tampa was sailing alone through the Bristol Channel to the Welsh port of Milford Haven to re-coal. The ship sank in just under three minutes, so quickly that none of the 131 people aboard had time to signal for help. The Tampa was stricken from the Navy list on September 26, 1918. The Tampa was the highest American naval combat casualty loss in World War I.*

- 1931: The keel of the USS Ranger (CV 4) is laid, making it the first aircraft carrier designed and built.
- 1944: The USS Archerfish (SS 311) sinks the Japanese carrier Shinano, the largest warship sunk by a submarine during World War II.

*The USS Archerfish (SS/AGSS-311) was a Balao-class submarine built in 1943 at the Portsmouth Navy Yard in New Hampshire. It was the first US Navy ship to be named after the archerfish. The Archerfish is best known for sinking the Japanese aircraft carrier Shinano in 1944, the largest warship ever sunk by a submarine. The Archerfish was decommissioned in 1946 and placed in the Pacific Reserve Group berthed at Mare Island, California.*

The U.S. Navy's official birthday is October 13, 1775, the day the Continental Navy was established. Some other facts about the U.S. Navy include:

- It is the world's largest navy



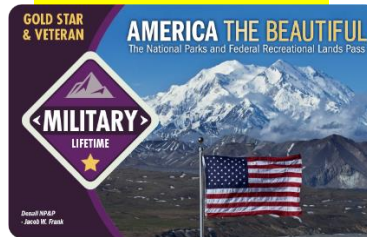
- Six U.S. presidents served in the Navy during World War II
  - Lieutenant John F. Kennedy, USNR
  - Commander Lyndon B. Johnson, USNR
  - Commander Richard M. Nixon, USNR
  - Lieutenant Commander Gerald R. Ford, USNR
  - Lieutenant James Earl Carter Jr., USN
  - Lieutenant George H.W. Bush, USNR

# VETERANS

We have listed a few websites and options for Veterans to take advantage of. Please enjoy them and the services they provide. You've earned it!

<https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1207/11-8-2022-lifetime-pass.htm>

National Park Service **Lifetime Pass for** Gold Star and Veterans



The new lifetime pass for Gold Star Families and Military Veterans provides free entrance to national parks and other federal recreation areas.

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<https://www.vettix.org/visitor/home>



Vet Tix secures tickets to sporting events, concerts, performing arts, educational and family activities across the nation. VetTixers sign up online. We verify their service. VetTixers request tickets to events that interest them, then pay a small delivery fee to receive their free tickets.

\* Vet Tix is a 95% Charity (Independently audited past 13 years)

<https://www.vacanteen.va.gov>



## Veterans Canteen Service (VCS)

In 1946, Veterans Canteen Service (VCS) was established by law to provide comfort and well-being to America's Veterans. With our many retail stores, cafés and coffee shops across the country, we serve those who have served our country. Our Canteens are whole health spaces for Veterans to connect, relax, share and care for themselves in an environment that is their benefit. We are proud to Serve America's Veterans and those who provide for their care.

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<https://www.veteransadvantage.com/>



## Rewards for the Greater Military Community

Founded in 2000 by Vietnam Veteran Scott Higgins and his wife, Lin, Veterans Advantage is a Public Benefit Corporation (PBC) that creates new, exclusive benefits and discounts for you as active duty, retired military, veteran, guard, reservist, or family member. Veterans Advantage now issues the #1 Secure Military ID, providing you with a safe way to redeem your military discounts.

We advocate for A Real Thank You® for your service from name-brand retailers, travel industry leaders, and trusted service providers. As a member of our community, you save money with our Military Discounts Marketplace and get the support you need through our blog, *The Service™*, our Military and Veteran Life resources, our social media platforms, and our Jobs & Career Network

## U.S.S. Conyngham Association Officers



President/  
Privateer Editor

**Kirk Williamson**

280 Foulkstone Way  
Vallejo, CA 94591  
707-297-2730

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



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Treasurer/Ships Storekeeper

**John Gosper**

119 Homestead Dr.  
Nicholasville, KY 40356  
859-539-0995

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



Secretary/

Immediate Past President/Chaplin

**John Burkhard**

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Vice President (DD371)  
(Emeritus)

**William (Pete) Anderson**



Historian/Web Master

**George Columbo**

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619-840-8792

[gcolumbo@hotmail.com](mailto:gcolumbo@hotmail.com)

### Contributions to PRIVATEER

News contributions to "The Privateer" should be sent to:  
The PRIVATEER, c/o Kirk Williamson, 280 Foulkstone Way,  
Vallejo, CA 94591 or to

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

Articles should be received by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the issue month.  
The PRIVATEER is normally sent out in January, April, July  
and October. Articles will normally be printed as submitted.  
The editors and the Association will not be liable for their  
accuracy.

**NOTICE — NOTICE — NOTICE**

It is very important all information requested be sent to the person requesting it. This will help make a better reunion, and help the planners. Please print or type when filling out the below form and mail to the person listed in each section.

Mail this section to: **John Gosper, 119 Homestead Dr., Nicholasville, KY 40356**

Make checks out to: **USS CONYNGHAM ASSOCIATION.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipboard rank/rate/Years Served On-Board \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

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Registration Fee, each Person, (includes hospitality room, drinks/snacks, Welcome Aboard Booklet, Name Tags)	\$150.00 x ___ = \$_____
Association Dues	\$17.00/yr x ___ = \$_____

Tours:

<u>Tour #1</u> <b>Military Aviation Museum &amp; Virginia Aquarium</b> (MONDAY-06MAY2024) (Lunch vouchers provided)	\$115.00 x ___ = \$_____
<u>Tour #2</u> <b>Nauticus Museum &amp; Victory Rover Cruise</b> (TUESDAY-07MAY2024) (Lunch on your own)	\$105.00 x ___ = \$_____

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ENTER EMAIL HERE IF YOU WOULD LIKE RECEIPT VIA TOTAL \$\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
*\*This helps us reduce costs\**

**RSVP MARCH 08, 2024**

Mail this section to:

OR

Email to:

Kirk Williamson

ussconynghampresident@gmail.com

280 Foulkstone Way, Vallejo, CA 94591

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**ARRIVAL DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Driving: \_\_\_ Flying: \_\_\_ Flight # \_\_\_\_\_ Airline: \_\_\_\_\_ Time Arriving: \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT:** Need to know your food selection & number attending for the following:  
*See Newsletter for info on tours.*

**Welcome selection:** ***BUFFET SELECTION (TexMex)*** **Attending? YES NO (circle one)**  
(05MAY2024)

**Banquet selection:** Chicken Florentine (w/Wilted Spinach, Creamy Rose' Sauce, Wild Rice Pilaf) \_\_\_\_\_  
(08MAY2024) Slow-Roasted Beef Tenderloin (w/Roasted Garlic Demi-Glaze, Oven-Roasted Potatoes) \_\_\_\_\_  
Baked Salmon (w/Dill Cream; Roasted Tomato Risotto) \_\_\_\_\_

(note: \*all dietary restrictions should be noted below)

**Farwell Breakfast:** ***BREAKFAST BUFFET (The Greenery)*** **Attending? YES NO (circle one)**  
(09MAY2024)

Tour #1: **MILITARY AVIATION MUSEUM/VIRGINIA AQUARIUM** number attending \_\_\_\_\_  
Tour #2: **NAUTICUS MARITIME MUSEUM-USS WISCONSIN/VICTORY ROVER** number attending \_\_\_\_\_

Plank Owners Dinner (06MAY2023 @ Murphy's Irish Pub) # attending \_\_\_\_\_

Captain Shafer Crew Dinner (06MAY2023 @ Isle of Capri) # attending \_\_\_\_\_

\*Anyone requesting a special dietary meal, please make note of it here:

Name and phone number of someone to contact in the event of an emergency:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PH# \_\_\_\_\_

**RSVP MARCH 08, 2024**



