

USS CONYNGHAM ASSOCIATION DD-371 - DDG-17

The PRIVATEER



Gustavus Conyngham
1747-1819

Volume 27 Issue 1

The "Cony-Maru" And "Gus Boat"

January 2021



Corona-Virus

Vice President Message



Happy New Year (2021).
With this pandemic looming all around us, my wishes are for you and your family to be safe and healthy.

As we get closer to the 2021
Lake George, NY reunion, I ask

for continued diligence in following all COVID-19 protocols.



Treasurer's Report

This has been a tough year for all of us with the Covid 19 virus. I am certain that we all know someone who has been directly or indirectly affected by the virus. Our lives have changed, from the way we socialize, to the way our children/grandchildren are taught in schools, to the way we buy our groceries. Our thoughts and prayers to those who have lost friends or family members this past year. Hopefully 2021 and the vaccine will return us to a "more normal way of life." Plans are in the works for the reunion this September to be held in Lake George, NY. The deposit for the Motor-coach and bus tours has already been made as well as the deposit to Lake George Resort.

A huge BZ to Kirk Williamson for stepping up and taking on the responsibilities as the Editor of the Privateer Newsletter on short notice. Hopefully this will be temporary. If you are interested in becoming the Editor or volunteering for the newsletter, please contact any executive committee member or Kirk Williamson concerning this.

Welcome to our new members and thank you to our members who renewed their membership with the Conyngham Association this past year. If your membership expired this past December 31st, you will continue to receive the newsletters for January and April. This will allow our members a chance to renew their membership prior to the Lake George reunion.

Included in this newsletter is the end of year financial report. The balance forwarded is \$11,447.30.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Stay safe and wishing you and your family a Happy New Year.

(continued on page 5)

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. S/S will email electronic invoice
 - c. Pay electronic invoice
 - d. S/S will ship order "Invoice" (min. fees apply)
3. Ship's Clothing order
<http://ddq17.logosoftwear.com>
 - a. Connect to the URL above
 - b. Order and pay online
 - c. Receive your clothing merchandise

S/S = Kirk Williamson (707) 297-2730
conynghamstorekeeper@gmail.com

S/T = David Johnson (904) 268-2871
conynghamtreasurer@gmail.com
12330 Peach Orchard Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32223

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INSERTS:

- Reunion RSVP Form
- Tour sign up Form

TAPS DD-371 & DDG-17

DDG-17
None Reported

DD-371
None Reported

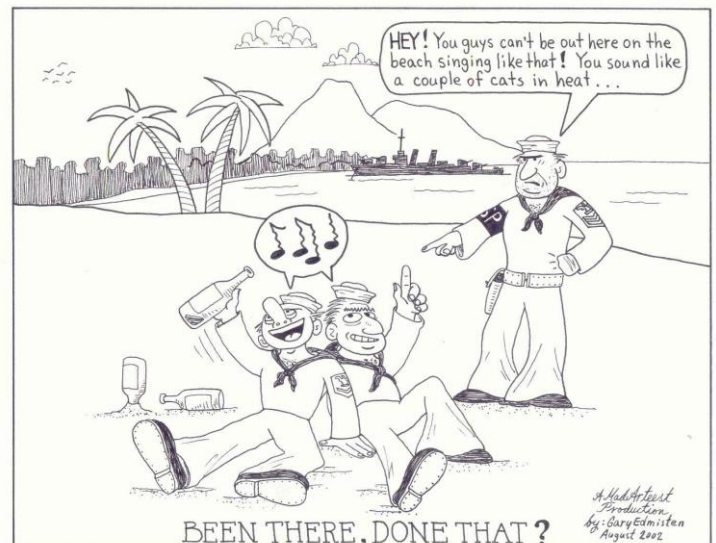
Welcome Aboard:

No New Members at this time.

Welcome to new members who joined the Conyngham Association and thank you to those who have renewed your membership. Annual dues are still \$17.00 per calendar year (January 1st – December 31st) and can be in advance if you desire. Hopefully our numbers will continue to grow. It's the support of our members that keeps this Association going strong.

All payments for dues or reunion fees should be sent directly to:
David Johnson, 12330 Peach Orchard Dr., Jacksonville, FL. 32223-3500

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



2021 USS CONYNGHAM ASSOCIATION
REUNION

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12-
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 16,202
LAKE GEORGE,
NEW YORK

Georgian Lakeside Resort



THE GEORGIAN LAKESIDE RESORT
384 Canada Street
Lake George, NY 12845

ROOM RATE \$95.00 (per night)



***Rates good 3 days prior to and after reunion dates –
based on availability – first come first served***

Reserve your room online

Or

You can call the Hotel at 518-668-5401.

**You must identify yourself as member of the USS
CONYNGHAM ASSOCIATION while making your
reservation.**

CONYNGHAM Reunion Cancellation Policy

Attention Reunion attendees:

The Executive Board has put in effect the following policy on reunion cancellations so that there is no misunderstanding when cancellations do occur. In order to receive a full refund for registration and tours, all cancellations must be received by the treasurer (either by phone or by email) at least thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the reunion

Any cancellations received between thirty (30) days and two weeks prior to the first day of the reunion may be eligible for a partial refund of the registration fee. Tour refunds be made ticket(s) are resold.

All cancellations received within one week of the first day of the reunion will not receive a registration refund but may receive a refund if your tour tickets are resold.

- 09/12/2021 WELCOME RECEPTION/MEAL
(@1800 hrs.)**
- 09/13/2021 SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD &
LAKE GEORGE LUNCHEON CRUISE
W/HISTORIC OVERLOOKS FROM PROSPECT MT.
(BUS TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED)**
- 09/14/2021 SKENESBOROUGH MUSEUM &
FORT TICONDEROGA
(BUS TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED;
LUNCH ON OWN IN TICONDEROGA)**
- 09/15/2021 BANQUET (@1800 hrs.)**
- 09/16/2021 FAREWELL BREAKFAST (@TBD)**



**RESERVATION CUTOFF DATE FOR GROUP
RATE
is
AUGUST 01,2021**

For More Information, please contact:

KIRK WILLIAMSON at
conynghamvicepresident@gmail.com
or 707-297-2730



USS CONYNGHAM ASSOCIATION FINANCIAL REPORT

December 31st, 2020

AVAILABLE FUNDS FORWARDED 1/1/2020 **\$12,872.37**

<u>Transaction</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Balance</u>
			\$12,872.37
Dues Collected	\$1,095.00		\$13,967.37
Ship's Store Sales	\$155.70		\$14,123.07
Ship's Store Costs		\$352.27	\$13,770.80
PRIVATEER Costs		\$747.22	\$13,023.58
Administrative Costs		\$481.70	\$12,541.88
Dividends received	\$5.42		\$12,547.30

2019 Reunion

Registrations Fees Received \$125	11	\$1,375.00	
Pirates Dinner Party	11	\$660.00	
Hop On/Off Bus	6	\$180.00	
Banquet Raffle & Auction		\$0.00	

	<u>Total Received</u>	\$2,215.00		\$14,762.30
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Registration/Tour Refunds		\$2,215.00	
Buffet & Banquet Rm Cost		\$0.00	
Hospitality Room Costs		\$0.00	
Reunion Booklet & Name Buttons		\$0.00	
Miscellaneous and Transportation		*** \$1,100.00	
	<u>Total cost</u>	\$3,315.00	\$3,315.00

BALANCE **\$11,447.30**

November Transactions:

*** \$600 Deposit for Lake George — Motor coach and Tours Check # 234, 235.

11/14/2020 Check # 236 \$500 Deposit for Lake George Resort

Dividends received:

Administrative Costs:

Dues Paid: R. Komorowski \$51, D. Mrozek \$34

Ship Store Sales/Costs:

New member(s):

A Can of Elbow Grease

The term “fool’s errand” refers to a practical joke or prank where a newcomer is given an impossible or nonsensical task by more experienced members of a group, usually in a professional setting. This hazing ritual usually requires the newcomer to travel some distance and ask for a silly object by name, such as sending someone for a left-handed valve wrench, or having the newcomer stand “mail-buoy” watch, or guard the sea-bats, not allowing them to escape their containment. Marvin Pipkin, upon starting a job at General Electric, was given a fool’s errand by his new team as a joke. New hires were asked to find a way to frost light bulbs from the inside. At the time, the task was believed to be impossible, as sandblasting was used to create a frosted effect in light bulbs but it caused the glass to be brittle and break easily. Unaware that he was being hazed, Pipkin developed an innovative acid-etching process for the inside of a globe of an electric lamp with sufficient strength for ordinary handling. Pipkin’s idealistic response to the fool’s errand revolutionized the light bulb industry.

Why the Military Cannot Communicate:

Navy: When you secure a building, you lock the doors and turn out the lights.

Army: When you secure a building, you will occupy it and forbid entry to those without a pass.

Marine Corps: When you secure a building, you assault with heavy fire, capture the building, fortify it, and call for an air strike.

Air Force: When you secure a building, you will negotiate a three-year lease with an option to buy.

U.S.S. CONYNGHAM Association VOLUNTEER-Call



As you may have heard, or experienced in the past, NAVY is an acronym for Never Again Volunteer Yourself. Fortunately, and unfortunately, I just can't help myself. The greater good, positivity, assist where and when I can and the embedded "Do No Harm" are all part of my DNA; Hopefully, a part of yours as well.

This is a call-to-arms; The U.S.S. Conyngham Association always seeks shipmates and members who wish to contribute and volunteer; whether it be on the Executive Board or as a Reunion Chair or Co-Chair, all positions, as listed below, are open and in need of your help. We all make a difference, though, we also have a tendency to not ask for help, when needed. I am asking for your help.

Please reach out to myself or any current Executive Board Member should you wish to volunteer and/or assist in any capacity.

Thank you in advance and stay healthy.

Volunteer Positions

(always open for nominations; nominations are entertained, then presented to and voted on by Membership, present at annual reunions):

Association President
Association Vice-President
Association Treasurer
Association Secretary

Privateer Editor
Ships Storekeeper
Chaplin

Reunion Chair/Co-Chair

Respectfully,

Kirk Williamson, Vice-President
U.S.S. Conyngham Assoc.

The wife of the famous ‘kissing sailor’ is in the iconic 1945 photo – and it’s not the nurse



*Rita can be seen just over Mendonsa’s right shoulder.

You don’t have to be a history buff to be familiar with Alfred Eisenstaedt’s “Kissing Sailor” photo — though its actual title is “V-J Day in Times Square.” It was taken hours before President Truman officially announced America’s victory in the Pacific War. The sailor in the photo happened to be on a date in New York City. He suddenly decided to celebrate by kissing the closest nurse — it’s just too bad his date wasn’t a nurse.

Authors [George Galdorisi](#) and [Lawrence Verria](#) did an extensive background study on the photo in their 2012 book, *The Kissing Sailor*. Their extensive forensic analysis determined that sailor was George Mendonsa and the nurse was Greta Zimmer Friedman. Friedman was not prepared for the kiss. In later years, she admitted that she didn’t even see him coming and that the two were strangers.

Friedman was working in a dental office at nearby Lexington Avenue, and though the war hadn’t officially ended, the rumors around NYC were swirling that Imperial Japan was set to surrender. She went over to Time Square to read the latest news, and sure enough, the electronic tickers all read “V-J DAY, V-J DAY.” That’s when Mendonsa grabbed her by the wrist and pulled her in.

“It wasn’t that much of a kiss, it was more of a jubilant act that he didn’t have to go back,” she told a Veteran’s History Project Interview. “I found out later, he was so happy that he did not have to go back to the Pacific where they already had been through the war.”

He grabbed a nurse because he was so grateful to nurses who tended the wounded in the war. The good news was her bosses cancelled the rest of the appointments for the day. The bad news was she never knew the sailor’s name. She never even saw the photo until the 1960’s. What she did know was that Mendonsa had been drinking (he was likely drunk).

Then-Navy Quartermaster 1st Class George Mendonsa was on 30 days leave from his ship, *The Sullivans*, at the time. He had been at the helm during the Battle of Okinawa, rescuing sailors from the carrier *Bunker Hill* after it was hit by kamikaze attacks. It’s small wonder he was happy to not have to go back into combat.

He was on a date with his then-girlfriend, Rita Perry, a woman that would later become his wife, waiting for his train back to the West Coast and back to the war. That’s when he heard the news that the war was over.



Former Navy Quartermaster 1st Class George Mendonsa and his wife of 71 years, Rita, celebrate George’s 95th birthday. (Photo by Hal Burke)
By the time *The Kissing Sailor* hit bookshelves, Rita Perry (now Mendonsa) and George Mendonsa had been married for 66 years. When asked about her feelings being in the background of a famous photo of her husband, 95 years old as of 2018, kissing another woman, she said, “he’s never kissed me like that.”

U.S.S. Conyngham Association Officers



President/Chaplin

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snipeddg17@aol.com



Vice Pres./Ships Storekeeper/
Privateer Editor

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707-297-2730
conynghamvicepresident@gmail.com
conynghamstorekeeper@gmail.com



Treasurer

David Johnson
12330 Peach Orchard Dr.
Jacksonville, FL 32223
904-268-2871
conynghamtreasurer@gmail.com



Immediate
Past President

Dave Douglas
david@solomark.com



Secretary

Len Gordon
P.O. Box 106
Milltown, NJ 08850
732-432-0588
ddggusboat@aol.com



Vice President (DD371)

William (Pete) Anderson

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
conynghamvicepresident@gmail.com

Articles should be received by the 1st 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.

BZ/THANK YOU to: John Gosper, Len
Gordon



\$12.00 ea.



\$5.00 ea



\$6.00 ea



\$1.50



\$4.00 ea.



\$5.00 ea.

****A Lanyard will be issued with Reunion Welcome Packet. ****



\$3.00 ea

Plus, other items: Shoulder Patch, KeyChain, Cruise Book CD, Command Book CD, etc... Check the Webpage for more details and larger images.

The Chain of Command:

Admiral:

Leaps tall buildings in a single bound, is more powerful than a locomotive, is faster than a speeding bullet, walks on water, and gives policy to God.

Captain:

Leaps short buildings with a single bound, is more powerful than a switch engine, is just as fast as a speeding bullet, walks on water if sea is calm, and talks to God.

Commander:

Leaps short buildings with a running start and a favorable wind, is almost as Admiral: Leaps tall buildings in a single bound, is more powerful than a locomotive, is faster than a speeding bullet, walks on water, and gives policy to God.

Captain:

Leaps short buildings with a single bound, is more powerful than a switch engine, is just as fast as a speeding bullet, walks on water if sea is calm, and talks to God.

Commander:

Leaps short buildings with a running start and a favorable wind, is almost as powerful as a switch engine, is faster than a speeding BB, walks on water in indoor swimming pools, talks to God if a special request has been approved.

Lt Commander:

Barely clears Quonset huts, losses tugs-of-war with switch engine, can fire a speeding bullet, swims well, and upon occasion is addressed by God.

Lieutenant:

Makes high marks when trying to leap buildings, is run over by locomotives, can sometime handle a gun without inflicting self- injury, can dog paddle, and talks to animals.

Lieutenant (JG):

Runs into buildings, recognizes locomotives two out of three times, is not issued ammunition, can stay afloat with life ring, and talks to water, swims well, and upon occasion is addressed by God. powerful as a switch engine, is faster than a speeding BB, walks on water in indoor swimming pools, talks to God if a special request has been approved swims well, and upon occasion is addressed by God.

Ensign:

Falls over door sills when entering buildings, says “Look at the Choo-Choo,” wets himself, and mumbles to himself.

Petty Officer:

Lifts buildings and walks under them, kicks locomotives off the tracks, catches speeding bullet in his teeth, chews them, freezes water with a single glance— He is God.

Submitted by: Len Gordon

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 **David Johnson, 12330 Peach Orchard Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32223.**

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

Name: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Ship: DDG-17 _____ DD-371 _____ Ship board rank/rate/what yrs Served on Board: _____

Registration Fee, each Person, (includes hospitality room, drinks/snacks, Welcome Aboard Booklet, Name Tags) \$125.00 x _____ = _____

Association Dues (DDG-17 shipmates only 2021 and any add'l yrs). \$17.00/yr x _____ = _____

Tours:

Tour #1 SARATOGA BATTLEFIELD/LAKE GEORGE LUNCH CRUISE \$65.00 x _____ = _____

Tour #2 WHITEHALL* (MUSEUM) – FORT TICONDEROGA** \$60.00 x _____ = _____
(*Wreath Laying Ceremony; **Lunch on own in Ticonderoga)

TOTAL \$ _____

ENTER EMAIL HERE IF YOU WOULD LIKE RECEIPT VIA

EMAIL _____

This helps us reduce costs

Mail this section to:

OR

Email to:

Kirk Williamson

conynghamvicepresident@gmail.com

280 Foulkstone Way, Vallejo, CA 94591

Name: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Ship: DDG-17 _____ DD-371 _____

Driving: _____ Flying: _____ Flight # _____ Airline: _____ Time Arriving: _____

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

Welcome selection: ***BUFFET SELECTION (incl. Chicken, Pasta and Seafood. Vegetarian options*)***

Banquet selection:

Farwell Breakfast: ***BREAKFAST BUFFET***

Tour #1: number attending, _____, Tour #2: number attending _____

Plank Owners Dinner, TBD: Number attending _____

Captain Shafer Crew Dinner, TBD, Number 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:
