



THE FOG HORN



I WILL NOT ABANDON YOU

LIGHTSHIP NOT IN
CORRECT POSITION

Volume 4 Issue 40 Newsletter of The U.S. Coast Guard Lightship Sailors Association
Winter 2013

Writings of The President

Larry Ryan

PRESIDENT

- Larry Ryan

1st VICE PRESIDENT

- vacant

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

- Bob Gubitosi

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- Debra Dasch

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- Dennis Cosmo

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- Rev. Adrian Van Houten

Director of Membership/Historian

- Ron Janard

Membership	2
President's Message	3
Secretary's Report	4
Short Sea Story	5
Veteran's Affairs	6
General Quarters	7
In Remembrance Chaplain's Message	8

My Brother Lightship Sailors, Founding Members, Life Members and Friends:

My apologies for the slightly condensed edition of our newsletter, we had some issues here on the home front that slowed everything down a bit. All is back to normal and we are ready for Spring, and the Spring Edition of the Newsletter.

Plans for our 2013 annual meeting are starting to come together and be finalized. We are making every effort to get the biggest bang for the buck in the limited amount of time we will have in Buffalo/Niagara Falls. In addition to Niagara Falls the area has a tremendous list of tourist attractions. I will try and include a few of the attractions in the next issue.

In addition to the planning for this years gathering, we will be introducing a few changes and some special features, especially for the memorial service.

In the past we have tried to offer a variety of interests, and we certainly will do so again this time. In passing, last year we met on the Battleship Alabama, the largest of any of the ship we have toured, this year it will be on the Guided Missile Cruiser Little Rock, the most modern of all we have seen.

We will be using school buses again for our transportation which has seemed to work out for us the past few years. We will have a complete agenda confirmed by the next publication but please plan on joining us and making your reservations as early as possible, it really helps us plan the activities and continues to help keep our expenses down.

Our membership continues to hold our own, along with our reserves, thanks to the efforts of Ron Janard and Fred Pelger (Ron's also an excellent photographer and is due credits for those in this publication).

We will be enjoying the most liberal rules regarding our hospitality room of any time in the past which will allow more social time as well as the fact that we have been contacted by several budding authors that have an interest in writing books on the life of Lightship Sailors. I have invited them to attend our October meeting in order to hear first hand our stories. I would respectfully request that you share your stories if you wish, if not, there is no mandate for you to discuss our history with them. These budding authors will be dues and fee paying attendees, paying the same amount that we pay.

I hope you all can be with us in Buffalo.

Help us keep the light shining,

Larry

Secretary's Report

Debra Dasch

Greetings to all Lightship Sailors and LSA Members!

I write this as the snow is blowing in PA and our New York and New England neighbors are getting pelted by blizzard conditions and possibly 2 feet or more of snow! Those of you residing in warmer temperatures can appreciate how lucky you are!

As we move through February, and the daylight hours get longer, we anticipate the arrival of Spring. One of my family traditions for Spring is the annual breakfast held by the Overfalls Foundation. We've been trekking to Lewes every year for about 10 years now, sometimes getting up VERY early (4 a.m.) in order to arrive in time, other times we leave the night before and stay with family in Dover but, either way, we look forward to seeing everyone from the Overfalls group and then visiting the Lightship afterward. They are always very happy to have Lightship Sailors join them and they love to hear sea stories!

We found the Overfalls, LV 118, about the same time we found the Lightship Sailors and it was quite a surprise for Rick to discover and revisit the lightship he served aboard some 40 years earlier. She was in a sorry state at the time, as the group had barely started their renovations, but what a show piece she is now!!! It's been a real honor to be part of the LSA too, seeing the dedication of so many great "Old Coasties", their family and friends, to keeping this history alive and telling those sea stories.

For those of you within reasonable driving distance of Lewes, consider attending the breakfast at 8:30 a.m., on Saturday, April 13th at the Lewes Yacht Club. Seating is limited and reservations are required, so don't wait too long to check their website at www.overfalls.org. I believe it's important for us to support the important work, done by folks like the Overfalls group, to preserve the Lightships and the history of the men who served aboard them. If you can't get to the Overfalls in April she's open all summer for tours, consider taking the grandkids and sharing your own history with them. If you live too far from the Overfalls, maybe there's another Lightship in your area that you can visit this Spring or Summer.

THINK SPRING!

Deb Dasch, Secretary

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USCG Lightship Sailors Association Annual Reunion

October Thursday 17th thru October Saturday 19th.

Location

Millenium Hotel (Airport)

Now accepting our reservations under "Lightship Sailors Reunion" \$110.00 per night

Call 1-800-323-3331

We will be following our established program schedule

Thursday Registration, Friday out side activities, Saturday tours and memorial service followed by annual banquet and fund raising auction.

Additional details to follow

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If I had my life to live over, I'd have fewer meetings and more rendezvous.

Robert Brault

Gus Symanski
Yonkers, NY
[GSyman\(Onsn.com\)](mailto:GSyman@Onsn.com)

Brief history;

We broke "Boot Camp" — Curtis Bay Maryland- on February 28, 1946 , and were deployed to the 3^d Naval District - Boston Mass.- Quite a few of us were assigned to Light Ships serving the Buzzards Bay — Cape Cod — area.

Six of my fellow " BOOTS ", and I were assigned to the Relief Light Ship 106 on station at the "Hens & Chickens " position . in Buzzards Bay .

The Relief Light Ship - 106- was a hard working ship. During my 13 months on board. We had serviced , in addition to the Hens & Chickens , The Pollick Rip.- Brenton Reef and the Nantucket Light Ship stations.

It was good duty , for every 30 days at sea we were granted 15 days leave, except at Nantucket , where you received 30 days leave for 60 days at sea.

The 106 was considered the "Sister Ship " of the Nantucket at one time, because we were built along the same lines as the Nantucket , and we had to be "sea worthy" to relieve the Nantucket when she was scheduled for dry dock service .

Fond memories at the Nantucket station was , when the troop ships bringing troops home from Europe saw our ship, it was the first sight of America and the troop ship actually "tilted because all of the returning troops were on one side of the vessel trying to get sight of our Light Ship. They knew they were "home " once they saw us. .

We saluted them with our "Fog Horn — Steam Whistle { Stack } and rang our Huge "bell to welcome them home .We had a huge bell up forward to be used in emergencies in the event that our Fog Horn malfunctioned

The 106 spent the Christmas Holidays in dry dock at the Charlestown Navy yard in December 1946 .

We were serviced by the bouy tenders "SPAR & HORNBEAM " 'Food , water , fuel, supplies and crew changes .


As you know, duty aboard the Light Ship, while on station, can be very boring. However our 'Skipper Captain Charles Tobin, was very lenient and allowed us to break the motoney whenever he could. As long as our daily work routine was observed and we maintained our governmental assigned duties , it was permissible. Fishing — shooting sharks [fins] while on Nantucket was allowed. Of course the card games - Double deck Pinochle and Hearts were the most popular. If we were stationed close to land, the small boat made "Mail "trips when possible.

We were called "wickies" and our theme song was "the Old Lamp Lighter "

My one objection, { fear } was flaking anchor chain in the chain locker while we were weighing anchor , can you imagine if the winch ever malfunctioned , what would have happened to us while we were in that restricted space? All of us would have been shredded. { Mince Meat if that heavy , huge chain ever let loose !

Respectfully Submitted, Gus

In everyone's life, at sometime, our inner fire goes out. It is then burst into flame by an encounter with another human being. We should all be thankful for those people who rekindle the inner spirit. Albert Schweitzer



VETERANS AFFAIRS

Roland Holloway, Director of Veterans Affairs

Greetings to All Veterans,

My hope is that all of you that have applied for benefits have either received them, or that you are in the process of getting them. In reality I know that the process is very slow, and the rejection rate is high. Don't give up. If you applied and haven't received acceptance into the VA for benefits, keep trying and use all available resources such as the VFW, American Legion, and your congressman. Also some local governments offer VA assistance. Please check the veterans web site at <http://www.va.gov> for forms and additional information. For those who have not applied you could get benefits of 10, 20 or 30%. In my case I received 10% plus hearing aids and batteries for life.

I have hearing packets with information that may be of assistance to you if your interested in applying. Please email or write me and I will be glad to forward these to you.

Roland Holloway, Veterans Affairs

9 Palisade Circle
Middletown, DE 19709
canukde@verizon.net



“TO US AND THOSE LIKE US”

Old Sailors sit and chew the fat about things that used to be,
Of the things they've seen, the places they've been, when they ventured out to sea.
They remember friends from long ago, the times they had back then. The money they spent, the beer they drank, in their
days as sailing men.
Their lives are lived in days gone by, with thoughts that forever last. Of bell bottom blues, winged white hats, and good
times in their past.
They recall long nights with a full moon so bright far out on a lonely sea. The thoughts they had as youthful lads, when
their lives were wild and free.
They knew so well how their hearts would swell when Old Glory fluttered proud and free.
The underway pennant such a beautiful sight as they plowed through an angry sea.
They talked of the chow Ol' cookie would make and the shrill of the Bosun's pipe.
How salt spray would fall like sparks from hell when a storm struck in the night.
They remember old ship shipmates already gone who forever hold a spot in their heart, when sailors were bold, and
friendships would hold, until death ripped them apart.
They speak of nights in pig alley and gut on many a foreign shore, of the beer they'd down as gathering around, telling
jokes and sea stories galore.
Their sailing days are gone away, never again will they cross the brow. They have no regrets, they know they are
blessed, for honoring a sacred vow.
Their numbers grow less with each passing day as the final muster begins, there's nothing to lose, all have paid dues, and
they'll sail with shipmates again.
I've heard them say before getting underway that there's still some sailing to do, they'll say with a grin, that their ship
has come in and the Good Lord needs a good crew.

Author unknown, submitted by Dick and Barb Nelson

GENERAL QUARTERS

Chiefs Corner



Our thanks to Anne Marie Tamalonis for the suggestion to publish this information on the grave markers.
Sharon Van Houten on left.



USCG GRAVE MARKERS

For those of you that attended our annual meeting in Savannah, GA, a cast bronze grave marker cast from the rivets of the historic motor Lifeboat 36500 and was donated to our auction during the banquet. This was an effort by Dick Ryder to memorize the rescue of the crew of the 36500 in the rescue of the crew of the Pendleton, still considered to be the greatest small boat rescue in Coast Guard history.

Since our meeting, we have had several members ask about individual purchases of the identical grave marker, except not cast from any part of any Coast Guard boat.

These markers are 6" diameter and available direct from the manufacturers in Eastham, MA, on line or call direct. The marker is \$49.95 plus shipping (mine totaled \$58.44)

Life Saving Service Markers

330 Silver Spring Road

Eastham, MA 02642-1815

774-722-0921

www.LifeSavingservicemarkers.com

The entire group gathered together on the fan tail of the Battleship Alabama for our annual memorial service 2012. We will be honoring a specific Lightship in 2013, Buffalo LV82 lost with all hands. We will have as a special guest grandchildren of the CO of the Lightship Hugh Williams.



“The budget should be balanced, the treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed, lest Rome become bankrupt. People must again learn to work instead of living on public assistance” Cicero, 55 BC



Updated 11-12-2012

CROSSED OVER THE BAR 2012

Lightship Sailor Veteran

Crossed Over

LSA Notified

Neal Ross Campbell (founding member) 106/528 Relief 1961	Feb 12, 2012	Feb 13, 2012
Malcom Pullen 113/535 Swiftsure Bank 1948	unknown	Feb 24, 2012
Robert E. Lee 115/537 Frying Pan 1962-'63	unknown	August, 2012
J David Melvin 115/537 Frying Pan 1960-'61		August, 2012
C. William Bailey 196 Pollock Rip 1946		August, 2012

**YOU ARE RELIEVED OF THE WATCH,
REST IN PEACE**



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

Rev. Adrian Van Houten

Hello and the best to you're my brothers and sisters in the LSA.

Right now Sharon and I are enjoying the sunshine in February (Feb 25) Looking forward to our return trip back to the snow in Mishigan in mid March. Sharon loves the snow. She doesn't have to get rid of it.

We are looking forward to our reunion in Buffalo, NY. I keep praying that each one of you have the desire to attend as we do. Please plan on attending, the LSA need you support. I havn't decided what to make for the table decoration yet, but will come up with something useful for the support of the organization.

Easter is upon us in a couple of weeks. Prepare your soul and heart for a wonderful time with the Lord and your family celebrating the death burial and resurrection of the savior of the world. He is no longer on the cross. He is risen and seated on high at the right hand of the

Father. Preparing a place for those who trust and believe in Him as Savior. Look heavenward for your daily strength.

Stay safe and enjoy your life God has given you. I am available to pray for you. Please feel free to contact me any-time. Love ya in the Lord.

Your Chaplin, *Adrian Van Houten*

CREED OF THE US COAST GUARD
HONOR-RESPECT-DEVOTION TO DUTY

