

**USCG LIGHTSHIP SAILORS ASSOC.  
INC.**

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*MISSION STATEMENT*

TO ASSIST IN THE PRESERVATION OF ALL EXISTING LIGHTSHIPS  
TO PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF LIGHTSHIPS AND THE SAILORS THAT  
SAILED ON THEM, TO HONOR THOSE LIGHTSHIP SAILORS THAT HAVE  
PERISHED IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES







# THE FOG HORN



I WILL NOT ABANDON YOU

LIGHTSHIP NOT IN  
CORRECT POSITION

Volume 3 Issue 35 Newsletter of The U.S. Coast Guard Lightship Sailors Association  
FALL 2011

## Writings of The President

Larry Ryan

### PRESIDENT

- Larry Ryan

### 1st VICE PRESIDENT

- Everett St. Louis, Director of Membership

### 2nd VICE PRESIDENT

- Bob Gubitosi

### SECRETARY

- Debra Dasch

### TREASURER

- Fred A. Pelger

### DIRECTORS AT LARGE:

- Dave Addicott
- Rick Gryder
- Roland Holloway
- Dennis Cosmo

### SPECIAL PROJECTS

- Bob Gubitosi

### Arts and Graphics

- Dennis Cosmo, Past Pres.

### Web Master

- Rick Gryder

### Chaplain

- Rev. Adrian Van Houten

### Historian

- Ron Janard

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My Brother Lightship Sailors, Members and Friends:

Traditionally we have reserved most of this edition as a recap of our annual meeting, this will not be an exception. In addition to the fine assortment of pictures submitted to the newsletter by many of our members, this is a perfect time to summarize the activities, and for lack of a better word, the mood and harmony of the group.

For those of you not attending, the emphasis needs to be placed on the members as a group. A finer group would be difficult if not impossible to match. Very few of this group actually served aboard a Lightship with another active member as a shipmate. Yet shipmates we are in every since of the word. A life time bond was formed as a result of our duty, and exists to this day many years later.

During the meeting and after everyone had returned home, members continued to support our organization with positive comments, pictures, suggestion for future meetings and articles for distribution to the General Membership. Our Ladies Auxiliary, The Mermaids, under Bob and Kathy Gubitosi continues to contribute more each year, our sincere appreciation to Our Ladies, your board of directors that tirelessly manage the affairs of the association, The USCG Lightship Sailors Assoc is truly an extraordinarily exceptional group.

One of our more enjoyable activities is our annual fund raiser in the form of our auction which follows our raffle, this year was no exception. We always ask the host hotel to donate a no charge three night stay to be raffled off in advance of the auction. In addition to the three night stay a second prize was also donated, this was a 1 oz silver coin (won by Joanne Bolton, a third time winner for one of the raffle prizes).

All of the items were donated by the members and guests. And a really wide variety of items that generated a lot of interest and participation by all in attendance. The proceeds go towards off setting our expenses not covered by the \$100 registration fee [our expenses exceeded our income as a result of hiring the two coaches traveling to Boston].

It simply is not possible to list everyone that contributes to our continued success, to those donating items and to the winning bidders at the auction please accept this as a huge thank you.

The LSA would like to congratulate The Overfalls Foundation in Lewes, DE in achieving a huge goal in having the LV 118 designated a National Historic Landmark. A dedication ceremony was held on September 26 dedicating the bronze marker (newspaper article courtesy Herman Schmidt, CWO-4 (Ret).

Our annual reunion for 2012 will be held in Mobile, Alabama. The details including the dates, hotel and planned activities will be in the Winter Edition of The Fog Horn. At this writing, there is a lot to see, do and eat in Mobile. We have requested the hotels that have indicated an interest in hosting our meeting to extend our special rate for two days in advance and two days after for those that want to see and do more than our official schedule will allow. We do have some exciting plans in the works.

Keep your schedule open.

Fair Winds to All,

*Larry*

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Ron Janard, at the helm of the 36500



Richard Ryder, Operations Manager for the 36500  
Speaking to Charlie Bolton



The completely refurbished historical 36500 made famous by Bernie Webber and his crew, The Pendleton Rescue off Chatham is still considered to be the greatest small boat rescue in Coast Guard History. Our never ending thanks to Richard Ryder for the rides that brought a lot of us back in time to our Lightship Duty time.



Bill Quigley and Everett St. Louis "making music"



Dick Nelson, Dennis Cosmo, Sylvia and Dave Addicott



Pete Penfield  
"Engineman at the wheel"

\*\*\*\*\*  
"Continuous effort- Not strength or intelligence is the key to unlocking our potential"



Rick and Kathy at the Lightship Sailors Memorial in New Bedford



Richard Frank Colletti, EN2 101 Stonehorse



Lunch on The Cape Cod Central Rail Road



Rick Gryder visiting historical sites on The Cape



Bosun Joe Burgess with Jesse



Richard Crocker, Dennis Cosmo, Kathy Steinke, Bob Gubitosi



Richard and Pat Kilroy, long time supporter of The LSA  
Our most senior member in attendance

# Secretary's Report

Debra Dasch



Your Board of Directors at the General Membership and Business Meeting.

## Summary of the General Membership and Business Meeting

The meeting was well attended, our guest speaker was Graham McKay who spoke on early lightships as well as presented facts on the remains of LV-4 or LV-9 in the Merrimac River.

All members of the board gave their individual reports.

We had an off year election to fill three vacancies on the board of directors for one year only: Debra Dasch elected as our secretary, Everett St. Louis was elected as 1<sup>st</sup> VP ( appointed as Chairman of the Membership ) and

Larry Ryan was re-elected as president. The newly elected complemented by those elected in Savannah, Bob Gubitosi, 2nd VP, Fred Pelger, Treasurer, Rick Gryder, Director and Webmaster, Roland Holloway, Director, and Dave Addicott, Director, Adrian Van Houten, Director and Chaplain. Dennis Cosmo, Past President, retains his seat on the board serving as Chairman of Arts and Graphics.

Deb Dasch, Secretary 2012.

*Editors Note: For those that missed the meeting, it is worth repeating. The Board of Directors as a group serve the members as the reunion committee and the finance committee. All individuals serve as chairmen of the other various committees. They serve without compensation, paying the same dues, fees and room rates as the membership.*

# A Short Sea Story

*I was stationed on the 533 (Portland) early in 1969. The officer in charge when I reported aboard was only on with me one week and was replaced by Fred G. Porter from Georgia. Mr. Porter was still on when I left the Portland in early 1971. The XO was a Chief Boats named Smith from Maine, the Chief Engineman was Bugenski from Mass. The 1<sup>st</sup> class boats was Julis D. Gramm from Ga. Also. These were also the officers aboard when we took the 533 to Boston to be decommissioned and picked up the 536 and returned to station. I don't remember which ship it was, but we got caught out in a hurricane one winter and rode it out on station. It was one hellish ride, but in the midst of the storm we were being drug off station towards our station bouy which was a spar bouy. There was no way we could get enough power to move the lightship out of the way of the bouy with the seas we were in and the bouy would have poked a rather large hole in the hull if we got drug on top of it.*

*So Chief Engineman Bugenski crawled out on the fantail with a M1 Garand and some shells and started shooting at the bouy in an attempt to sink it. Now the seas were running 20' or better and we would see the bouy for a short time between waves. I don't know how many shots it took, but Chief Ski hit it enough times to sink it finally. He got battered around pretty good out there that day layin on the deck shootin at the bouy, but had he not sunk that bouy, it could very well have sunk us.*

*There was another time on station when a Portuguese fishing trawler came along side and asked if we could help one of their seaman with a small problem. The seaman came up on deck and held up his hand and there was a giant treble hook right thru his palm. We couldn't believe what we were seeing and we're about to call for a helo or small boat to take him ashore, when they asked in very broken English for a torch or bolt cutters to cut the barb off.*

*We had some bolt cutters on board, so we tied him off, put a life jacket on him and he climbed up the rope ladder with one hand. They took him into the engine room, clamped the hook in the vise and cut the barbed end off the hook. The minute the barb was cut off the seaman slid his hand off the hook and acted like nothing had happened. Mr. Porter & Chief Ski insisted they clean the wound and wrap it, but I suspect the bandage only stayed on that mans hand till they were out of sight. We had a fresh fish feast that night for evening chow.*

*William R. Parks*

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Editors Note: Our sincere thanks to Bill Parks for the above excellent sea story . Stories like this will go a long way in helping preserve our history as Lightship Sailors.

We would like to see more sea stories like this ( or fairy tales if that is best you can do). We will follow your wishes regarding how it is posted, just let us know.

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2011 ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE  
 ABOARD THE 112 NANTUCKET LIGHTSHIP IN BOSTON HARBOR

Chaplain Adrian Van Houten presiding



Lightship Sailors touring the 112



A small portion of the 70 total attending the memorial service.



Memorial Service produced by The LSA, with Chaplain Adrian Van Houten, presiding. Bob Gubitosi, serving as MC, Sharon Van Houten vocalist, Roland Holloway and Ron Janard as Color Guard and Bell Ringer.



Sharon Van Houten singing 'Veterans of The USA'



Paul Richardson, Bugles Across America. Our first Coast Guardsman to participate. Our Thanks,





President Larry Ryan presenting a certificate of appreciation to Capt Robertson Dinsmore, USCG (Ret) in recognition for his service, his contribution to the 112 and in appreciation for his participation as our Key Note speaker. As a young officer, Capt Dinsmore brought a Lightship down the Mississippi River, I'm sure this would have been a real sight and a mystery to the public. And probably established himself as one of the earliest Lightship Sailors in the room.

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The contributions to our 13<sup>th</sup> annual meeting from so have been unprecedented.

While it is not possible to recognize everyone in this publication, we would be derelict without specifically mentioning some, including Richard G. Ryder Commander, USN (ret). Richard brought the 36500 around to Barnstable Harbor offering rides to those of us that at one time were more than just acquainted with the old "36 footers", these many years ago. The contribution of the 36500 function to our planned events was awesome.

In addition to serving as Operations Manager for the 36500, Mr. Ryder also is a published author, entitled '*Seashore Sentinel The Old Harbor Lifesaving Station on Cape Cod*'

The dedication reads "...to the brave and skilled men of The U.S. Life Saving Service and the U.S. Coast Guard who served at Old Harbor Station. We must never forget their sacrifices, dedication, and perseverance."

It is a fascinating read on what is even more rapidly becoming another part of our lost history than that of Lightship Sailors The book may be purchased direct from Mr. Ryder at 330 Silver Spring Road Eastham, MA 02642

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## VETERANS AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

As the Board member in charge of Veterans Affairs, I wanted to reach out to the members I sent a hearing loss packet to find out if you've made any progress in dealing with the VA for your hearing loss. I would appreciate an email regarding your status. For anyone who would like the information I have, please contact me at the address below. It is important to be persistent and yo use all available resources, such as your American Legion, V.F.W., local VA representative or your Congressman.

For everyone who did not make the reunion, you missed a good time, and I hope to see you in Mobile Alabama.

Roland Holloway, Director of Veterans Affairs  
 9 Palisade Circle  
 Middletown, D.E. 19709  
 canukde@verizon.net

# GENERAL QUARTERS

## Chiefs Corner



### HISTORIAN'S REPORT

#### The 13<sup>th</sup> Lightship Sailors Association Reunion

Seems like it was just yesterday, we were attending the 12<sup>th</sup> Reunion in Savannah, and now the 13<sup>th</sup> Reunion is in our history book. You just cannot beat good ol' New England. Many in the LSA had served here during their sea duty, stationed on the Atlantic, which was the most populated area for Lightships.

The activities were enjoyed by all. The one hour cruise on the 36500 was great. What added to the thrill was the rainy weather we endured, meeting Rick Ryder, who volunteered his time to bring the 36500 to Barnstable, making sure anyone who wanted to brave the weather, took a cruise. A highlight for me, was taking the Helm!

The Cape Cod Dinner Train was most enjoyable, a very relaxing ride from Hyannis to Bourne, along the Cape Cod Canal. The Woman Conductor was a character, friendly, a historian, and a pilot for many years. Excellent food and atmosphere. A good time was had by all.

The highlight of any reunion is The Memorial Service. This year the LSA Memorial Service was held on board The Nantucket Lightship LV 112. Lightship Sailors, boarded Coaches in Hyannis and rode in comfort the hour or so to East Boston, where the 112 is currently berthed. Everyone enjoyed touring the ship from top to bottom. Roland Holloway, Myself and Charlie Bolton lowered the Flag, and raised the Flag off the 613, which had been the last Flag flown on any Lightship while on duty ( donated by Michael Lambert).

After a one year hiatus as LSA Historian, I would like to Thank you, for the warm Welcome I received.

I would also like to salute the LSA Reunion Committee, for the hard work and dedication, making the 13<sup>th</sup> LSA Reunion, one, that will not be forgotten!

Thank You!

Ron Janard LSA Historian

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### WEB MASTER'S REPORT

#### The LSA Website [uscglightshipsailors.org](http://uscglightshipsailors.org)

Rick Gryder

As most of you know we started a section on the website where we are listing by alphabetic order all known Lightship Sailors. In addition to the names, we are starting to add pictures of our time when "we really were Lightship Sailors". The success and popularity of this section lead to a new section "Then and Now", where we are posting pictures from our boot camp days to how we have gracefully aged to the present.

We would respectfully request pictures of your boot camp days as well as a current picture for posting on our website.

You may send them either by e-mail or US Post Office in which case they will be returned on request.

Also: For those of you attending the annual reunion in Hyannis that have pictures that you would like to have posted on the website, please send them in as we want all of the pictures possible for posting.

We all want to thank Rachel Tamalonis for setting up her laptop during the banquet to share our website with those not familiar with the new additions.

If you have not been on line for awhile, please check us out.

Thanks, Rick

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"Every thought is a seed, If you plant crabapples, don't count on harvesting Golden Delicious"  
Bill Meyer



Name of Lightship Sailor



Hull Number of Lightship served on

I'm sure most of you know we have been sending out a paper certificate when any Lightship Sailor crosses over the bar. I have found another idea that is a lot more upscale than the paper certificate. It is a 3" X 3" X 1/2" block of black granite that will include the Lightship Sailors name and the hull number (s) of the lightship he served on. This block is suitable for display next to other memorials earned in The Coast Guard.

Please pass any information on to us regarding the passing of any Lightship Sailor.

Thanks,

Dennis Cosmo, Past President and Chairman of Arts and Graphics

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“Not for Fame or Reward, Not for Place or for Rank, But in Simple Obedience to Duty, as they understood it”  
Confederate Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

Rev. Adrian Van Houten

Hello fellow LSA members and Friends.

What blessings we have to reflect on as we think back almost a month ago at the reunion. Getting aboard the 112 was special, and for those of us who never have been on her stepped on a piece of history that is being preserved for future generations to see and feel. All of us have special memories of the old girls we were on that we would never forget. I thank the Lord for that experience he allowed me to have. Never forget where we have come from and where we are going. I personally would like to thank you for putting up with my silliness during the auction, and thanks for the support of the bowls that were auctions off. I know Sharon and my heart was blessed to be with all of you, and is already looking forward to next year in Mobile. I will continue to be praying for you holding you up before the Lord. If there are any special prayer request that are needed please let me know. God's richest blessing be upon you.

Your Chaplain, Adrian Van Houten

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“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you”.

Philippians Chapter 4

