

FARRAGUT FLASH

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The Old Man's Ghost Sighted on Quarterdeck of DDG 99 – Asked for "Full Speed Ahead!"
(Official US Navy Photo from <http://www.farragut.navy.mil>)

Greetings from our President

by Jerry O'Connor (RM, 69-71) President Farragut Ships' Association, INC.

Shipmates:

2008 has come and gone. We held our Reunion in Cleveland in July and our turnout was not what we expected, but then, did any of us expect such tremendously high energy prices. I know those numbers contributed to many of us passing up on the Reunion. I, as President, understand fully.

We did conduct business there and as you all know by now, our next Reunion will be in New London Ct. in 2010, exact time and place TBD by Greg DeLong and Bob Ursum, who comprise our Reunion Committee. Greg has already done some research for us and found many new and exciting things for us to consider. They range from visits to USS Nautilus, our first nuclear submarine to the Mohegan Sun Casino and the Mystic Seaport and Mystic Aquarium nearby. Greg's research is posted in this newsletter.

We do need for all Shipmates to consider their attendance in New London and give us a head count of Shipmates that are planning to attend. Greg and Bob need these numbers in order to negotiate the best deal for us. The easiest way to let us know is to contact Greg or Bob via email or telephone to let them know if you plan to be there. The more of us that are there, the better deal we can get. Once we have an idea of how many to expect, we can move onward in selection of prospective locations. This list of locations will be posted for

Shipmates to offer input. I would like to know what amenities Shipmates would like to see at our Reunion location. I know parking is one of the foremost in your minds as many of you like to drive RV's to the site. As your Board of Director's, we will be keeping that in mind as we go on.

New membership cards have already been printed and sent out to all Shipmates whom we have posted as current in dues. If you have not gotten your card and are current, please contact Tom Randall or myself so we can correct the problem and mail your new card. If you are not current, please send your dues to Greg DeLong, our Treasurer. He will advise me of any dues he receives so that I may print and mail cards. I have made some changes in the cards that I feel many of you would prefer. I printed each card individually with the ship each Shipmate served on. Those of you who were on DDG 37 have that ship pictured. The same with DLG 6 and DD 348 and so on. It took a little doing but its done.

The website will soon have pictures of the Change of Command that took place recently. Capt Sobeck, the new CO has assured me that we will be kept in their loop for all upcoming events. We also have contact with the new PAO on Farragut. Hopefully we will be included in any Family/Tiger Cruises in the future. I, for one, will be there. As for upcoming events, Farragut is due for a Repair/Dry dock period that will cover the next few months.

Then deployment to another assignment.

I have been contacted by Mr. Howard Sakolsky, a graduate of Admiral Farragut Academy, in Tampa/St. Petersburg area regarding a 75th Reunion for Admiral Farragut Academy graduates. They want to have as many former Farragut sailors as possible at their reunion. At this point, I can only tell you that the prospective dates are April 2, 3., and 4th, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, first weekend in April, beyond that, I do not know. Mr. Sakolsky will be sending more details to our website for posting there. Keep logging on to get the information as it is posted.

Once again, Shipmates, it is my honor to serve you as President.

Fair Winds and Following Seas, Jerry O'Connor



Shipmate President Jerry O'Connor at the Third Change of Command aboard USS Farragut (DDG 99)

Third Change of Command for USS Farragut (DDG 99)

Cmdr. Philip Sobeck assumed command from Cmdr. Scott Dugan during a change of command ceremony on Dec. 5. Dugan took command in June of 2007. He led the Farragut through two major dry-dockings, the Basic Phase Training Cycle, fulfilling duties as Air Defense Commander for the George Washington Carrier Strike Group, and most recently her maiden deployment in support of Partnership of the Americas 2008. Now it will be CDR Sobeck's turn to rise to the challenge of continuing Farragut's reputation for excellence and the fighting spirit evidenced in the ship's motto, "Prepared for Battle!" Sobeck enlisted in October of 1985 as a Machinist Mate (nuclear). He was then appointed to the United States Naval Academy, where he

graduated in 1991. At sea, Sobeck has served on numerous ships in the Atlantic Fleet including Auxiliaries and Main Propulsion Assistant on USS Hawes (FFG 53), Plankowner and CIC Officer on USS Gonzalez (DDG 66), Operations Officer on USS McFaul (DDG 74) and Operations Officer on the staff of COMDESRON 50 and Commander Middle East Force. Sobeck's last sea assignment was Commanding Officer of MCM Crew Impervious embarked on USS Avenger (MCM 1) and USS Ardent (MCM 12). Ashore, Sobeck has served as PERS 410(b) Bureau of Naval Personnel, Executive Assistant to the Commandant U.S. Naval Academy, and Fellow in the Washington DC Intern Program. Sobeck's last assignment was deputy director for

Flag Officer management and detailing, BUPERS Liaison, Washington, D.C...



*Captains Courageous and Proud:
CDR Sobeck Relieves CDR Dugan
05DEC08 at Mayport*



Farragut shipmate CDR (ret.)
J.D.P. Hodapp, Jr. USN in 1998

*BY J.D.P. Hodapp, Jr CDR (r.) USN
(1st LT, DD 348, 1940-42)*

*When we last visited with our
intrepid Ensign, he was aboard
USS Farragut (DD 348) at Pearl
Harbor.*

I was to take over as 1st Lieutenant... (so) I started reading the "Ship's Organization Book" which, fortunately, was a lot smaller than the one I had aboard the LEXINGTON - with only 150 men and seven officers, DD 348 had almost as many total compartments as there had been for the B Division alone on LEXINGTON. My first dinner aboard was eaten in solitary splendor, sitting at the head of the wardroom table (normally occupied

Fuzzy Farragut Flashbacks: I Reported to FARRAGUT 15 June 1940

by the C.O.), and the duty Steward's Mate (also the cook) had given me a choice of entrees ("Sir, do you want steak, chicken, or ham for dinner?", he asked me shortly after all the other officer's had left the ship right after lunch). Before turning in Saturday night I had put on dungarees and toured every (well, almost every) compartment in the ship. Come Monday morning at 0800 I was able to report to Captain Welker, on the bridge, that "Main engines and siren tested, Sir! Special Sea Detail is set, and ship is ready to get underway". At 0801 the Skipper said to me, "Why aren't we moving, Mr. Hodapp?" It seems the one thing that any of the other officers had forgotten to tell me was that the duty officer was expected to get the ship underway and that bridge watch rotation started with him after Special Sea Detail was secured. The Exec and the Gun Boss were on the bridge with me and they, along with the Skipper, gave a big laugh looking at my "non-plussed" countenance and hearing my stammering reply, "But, SIR!" The Skipper then said, "O.K., I just wanted to see your reaction. I know you haven't stood a bridge watch

since you were a midshipman, so I'll take her out. You; keep your eye on me, and then maybe you'll be able to do it the next time you have the duty".

The LEXINGTON's Exec prediction of great responsibility for many tasks aboard a destroyer came true pretty fast, believe me. As 1st LT I was responsible for all hull maintenance including DCA duties, for four ship's boats, deck seamanship, and logistics for my department. With DCA duties came GQ battle station on the bridge, and as that is where the two torpedo directors were located so I pulled additional duty as Torpedo Officer, one of the few extra jobs that wasn't already assigned to "George" a.k.a the "Bull Ensign". About a week later ENS W.D. Bonvillian reported aboard to relieve ENS Bass. As Bonvillian was junior to me since our days at the Naval Academy (I had graduated from the Academy 166 numbers ahead of him) he assumed my duties as "George". A few days later, Ensigns Bass and Lamberson left DD 348 for flight training at Pensacola - Bass was killed during WWII and later a destroyer (USS Brinkley Bass DD 871) was named after him.

NEXT ISSUE: DD 348 blithely enjoys Hawaii unaware of the impending attack 7DEC1941

Fifth Farragut Reunion to be Held in 2010 at Mystic, CT



Gentlemen: Our 2010 Farragut Reunion will be held in the historic New London/Mystic, CT area. This change was approved by a majority vote held at the Fourth Farragut Reunion in Cleveland. We are very excited about going to this area with a long Navy tradition all be it submarines. For those of you who aren't familiar with the area, let me give you some insights to this fantastic seaport. (Editor's Note; See also <http://www.mysticcountry.com/default.aspx>)

Any sailor worth his salt would want to make at least one visit, as for myself I have been there many times and look forward to seeing you there. Within 20 minutes of the NLO/Mystic area there are so many exciting things to do that I fear our only problem will be a shortage of time to see it all.

#1 on my list is the Mystic Seaport old whaling village. To say that you can spend 2 or 3 days there easily is just plain true. There are old whaling ships and carpenters shops, old homes and general stores. You can even take the opportunity to take a short cruise on the Mystic River.

#2 on my list is just a short ride away, the US Navy Submarine base at Groton, CT. We will be attempting to get permission to tour the base as a group. Any one with connections can contact me and help out on this if they please. Also nearby is the Submarine Force Museum that includes the first 1st US Navy naval nuclear ship, the submarine USS Nautilus (SSN 571), open to the public. (Editor's Note: Nautilus is a contemporary of DLG 6, walking through it has the same

feel as did DLG 6/DDG 37. It has some very difficult WTDs to pass through and it may prove difficult for those with stiff knees and backs to get around. See <http://www.usnnautilus.org/> for much more information)



#3 on my list is the Mystic Aquarium. A great place to visit with the family, it has great exhibits for kids and adults alike and is the home of Dr. Robert Ballard (Think *Bismarck* and *Titanic* expeditions.) Right next door to the aquarium is a fantastic shopping area with at least 100 shops carrying anything you can think of buying. There's a few things I can tell you about the Aquarium the trained beluga whales and the beautiful open tank that you can walk around below the floor level. (Editor's Note: Best damn aquarium in New England. See also <http://www.mysticaquarium.org/>)

#4 For all you gamblers out there 20 minutes from New London is the [Foxwoods Casino](#) in Ledyard, CT and the [Mohegan Sun Casino](#) in Uncasville, CT. I have been to Foxwoods and can say that it is truly an experience.

#5 on my list is the Mohegan Tribe's Tantaquidgeon Indian Museum in Uncasville. It is the most fantastic Indian Museum I have ever been to – you can walk thru authentic Indian villages from the Ice Age to modern times Truly a wonder.

OK if that is not enough for us to do let me remind you that we will

also be seeing some great shipmates and renewing some acquaintances from long ago. I don't know about the rest of you but I do enjoy seeing old friends, and meeting new ones that served on the Farragut after I left.

The reunion is currently planned for July 2010. No firm dates have been confirmed while my committee and I (Bob Ursum and Tom Randall) find the best hotel rates and the best hotel possible for us to enjoy ourselves.

What I want from my shipmates is simple, if you are planning to attend (and we would like a huge attendance) could you E-mail either myself or FSA President Jerry O'Connor who will let me know. If we can get a fairly accurate count i will be better able to deal with the hotels. Remember this is a huge tourist destination in the summer so we need to book as soon as possible to get the best hotel and the best rates possible. I implore each and everyone of you to let me know as soon as possible if you are able to attend. I will personally guarantee each of you a wonderful time, a chance to meet old shipmates and make new friends, too. Thank You to each of my shipmates for taking the time to read this and a huge thanks for being a part of Our Country's greatest Navy.

Greg Delong ex-MM3 DLG 6
FSA Treasurer and Reunion
Committee Chairman 2008-10

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We're on the Web!

<http://www.farragutassociation.org>

<http://ussfarragutshipmates.com/>

USS Farragut (DDG 99)

<http://www.farragut.navy.mil/>

Cecil Blount USS Farragut (DD 348) 1938-39:



SANTA ROSA, Calif. - LCDR Cecil Blount (U.S. Navy, Ret.) passed away in Santa Rosa, Calif., on Jan. 8, 2009. He was 96 years old.

A native of Roper, N.C., Cecil ("Red") received his Congressional appointment to the United States Naval Academy from North Carolina. He graduated with the Class of June of 1935.

Upon graduation, he served on the RANGER and then went to ComAirBatFor. **In '38 he served on the FARRAGUT** and then to Lakehurst, N.J., for his LTW wings. In '40 he served on

the TEXAS. In '42 Blimp duty took him to Elizabeth City, Santa South Weymouth, and Trinidad. In '43 he went to the Naval War College. He then went to the BRISBANE on Com 7th Fleet Staff and then CO of the CARTER HALL (Lsd3) for the Leyte Landing. He was in Pearl Harbor on Com14/s staff Exec of the OBERON and the Wrangel. In '53 he went to San Juan on ComCarib staff. He resigned in '55 while stationed in Panama.

In 1955 he relocated with his family to Corvallis, Ore., to pursue a Geology degree at Oregon State University. In the '60s and '70s he lived in Rhodesia, Congo, Italy, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada returning to Virginia in 1977. Three years ago he relocated to California to be closer to family.

He is survived by his first wife, Jeanne Robinson; sons, Dean and John; daughters, Myrna Tufono, Gail Souza (Robt), Sarah Davies, and Annaliese Moran (Frank), 14 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and one

great-great-grandchild, and cherished nephews and nieces.

He is preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Alfred (Elizabeth) and Francis (Lurlene); and sister, Willie Blakeney (James).

Arrangements by Daniels Chapel of the Roses, PO Box 1425, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. Burial will be March 10, 2009, at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors.

On behalf of the association, shipmate Randall posted condolences to the Guest Book provided with his obituary posted online at <http://www.dailypress.com>



USS Farragut (DD 348) in 1938

NOW HEAR THIS! ADMIRAL FARRAGUT ACADEMY TO HONOR ALL SAILORS, PAST & PRESENT WHO HAVE SERVED AND ARE SERVING ON THE USS FARRAGUT!

On 03 April 2009 @ 1200 hrs the AFA will host a luncheon for all former and present crew members of the USS Farragut (DD 348/DLG 6/DDG 37/DDG 99) with a special unveiling of a plaque commemorating these vets which we will display in Farragut Hall here on campus. They would like to have guests who plan to attend there in Tampa Thursday night or early Friday morning. If anyone travels there by RV, they will be able to dry camp on the campus. Those vets who will need hotel rooms are to the AFA know so that they might assist with making arrangements. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Howard Sakolsky 603-801-0171 or via E-mail hmsakolsky@yahoo.com. Please RSVP to shipmate Tom Randall who is trying to coordinate our Association's response to the AFA.

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