

# Fall 2014 Newsletter



## THE DRYDOCK DRIBBLE

The USS Cabildo (LSD-16) Crewmembers Association Newsletter

### **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

**Leo A. Waltsak for Pablo Garcia**

**Greetings Cabildo Shipmates, Family and Friends,**

**Our new President, Mr. Pablo Garcia, was not in attendance at this year's annual USS Cabildo (LSD-16) reunion as he recently underwent surgery. He was with us in spirit, and in contact with us via telephone. We wish him a full and speedy recovery, and look forward to our next gathering that he can attend.**

**Both Pablo and I would like to thank all of our shipmates, spouses, family and friends who attended our reunion in San Diego, CA hosted by Marshall and Linda Kendricks. The**



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**Kendricks deserve a big "thank you" for the time and effort they both gave to provide all of us with an event to remember. They did a fantastic job which we truly appreciate.**

**Everyone enjoyed this year's Hospitality Room as a place to remember old friends, reminisce about our lives together aboard ship, and catch up with what's happened since we met last year. Although we all enjoy the excursions, the best part of coming together each year is the camaraderie, and the brotherhood our particular group of individuals share. Like siblings, we share a common history that only serving aboard "our" ship, the USS Cabildo, can understand and appreciate.**

**"Thank you" to the Ladies and Gentlemen who stocked and maintained the Hospitality Room for the duration of our reunion. A lot of planning, shopping and teamwork go into providing the benefit of a "pleasant haven" for us old dudes.**

**President Garcia has volunteered to host next year's 2015 reunion in San Antonio, TX. Plans are being made, and the tentative itinerary looks very nice. I'm sure we will have a wonderful time together. So, save the dates on your calendar and "remember the Alamo".**

## **San Diego -Long Beach**



**USS Midway**



**USS Iowa**



**Seaport Village**



**Queen Mary Long Beach**

## 2014 San Diego, CA Reunion Recap

Leo A. Waltsak

The reunion was held at the beautiful Town and Country Resort. Along with swimming pools, gardens and fountains the resort had three restaurants, and as many gift shops to browse.

Our tours of the Aircraft Carrier, USS Midway (CV-41); Battleship, USS Iowa (BB-61), and the iconic Queen Mary gave us so much history! We met two comrades who were World War II veterans, with one being a Pearl Harbor survivor told us stories about December 7th, 1941, "the day that will go down in infamy", and how really devastating the attack on Pearl Harbor was to our nation. The other one was a soldier who participated in the "D-Day" invasion of Normandy, 6 June 1944. We couldn't thank these servicemen enough for their patriotism and volunteering their histories to us. From the deck of the USS Midway you can see "Unconditional Surrender" a statue based on a US Navy photo journalist, Victor Jorgensen's photo of a Sailor kissing a Nurse in Times Square celebrating the unconditional surrender of Japan on V-J Day, 14 August 1945.

We next had a guided tour of the USS Iowa (BB-61). We learned about the Turret Explosion in the center gun room

USS Cabildo (LSD-16)  
Website Links

[Reunion 2014](#)

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that killed 47 of the turrets crewman and severely damaged the gun itself. Although there are a few theories of what caused the explosion, several investigations have not come up with a conclusive answer. We were able to view the 32 President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, exhibit during our tour. One of his wheel chairs, copies of his war plans, and other memorabilia were on display.

The beautiful retired ocean liner RMS Queen Mary was next on our tour. Unlike today's cruise ships, she was built with a deep steel hull and a long tapered bow to cut through heavy seas enabling her to safely carry passengers primarily across the North Atlantic from 1936 to 1967. During World War II from 1940 through 1946 she sailed as a troop ship. Between February 18 - March 28, 1942 a "40 DAYS AND 40 NIGHTS" voyage from Boston to Sydney, Australia it was the first time the Queen carried American troops (8,398 troops, 905 crew). By the time the war ended the great ship had carried a total of 765,429 military personnel; sailed a total of 569,429 miles, and carried up to 15,000 troops at one time. The Queen Mary carried wounded returning to the United States, and had transported Winston Churchill three times to conferences. As a happy ending to her war service she carried and reunited 12,886 G.I. war brides and children to their returning servicemen. She is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation

has accepted the Queen Mary to be part of the Historic Hotels of America. As a tourist attraction she features restaurants, a hotel, and a museum hosting a Princess Diana exhibit. I climbed to the highest level, and still couldn't see the PIKE! What a splendid tour!

Overall we had a wonderful time exploring the three remarkable ship mentioned above. We were in for another treat before our business meeting when we had the pleasure of meeting Brad and Janeen Mongeau. Brad is the diver who has been exploring and photographing the remains of the USS Cabildo for the past 15 years. He prepared a video for us showing our ship's final resting place off the coast of San Nicolas Island, the most remote of California's Channel Islands. The 14,562 acre island is currently controlled by the United States Navy and is used as a weapons testing and training facility.



I don't know who enjoyed watching the video more! Was it us seeing the Cabildo again after so many years or Brad

meeting the men who sailed her? Was it us telling Brad our Cabildo stories of years past or Brad learning the identity of different parts of the ship he has grown to know so well. It was a win/win either way. We wish Brad well, and hope he continues to dive on the Cabildo remembering the men who sailed her. From the photos we saw, I know that our ship is providing for all sorts of sea life as she sits and waits for the Pacific to consume her.

## **2015 San Antonio, TX Reunion**

**Warren Gammeter for Pablo Garcia**

The dates have been set October 8 - 12, 2015. The tentative agenda is linked to our website home page. Save the dates - full details will be in our winter newsletter.

## **2014 Ship's Store**

**Bob Gwin**

If you missed the reunion and seeing Brad Mongeau's video a DVD of his presentation is available from our ships store for \$5.00.

2015 Dues will still be \$25.00, you can send your check anytime.



## Website/Newsletter

**Warren Gammeter**

I have about 80% of the 2014 reunion web pages up on our website at this [link](#).



**Our thanks to Mary Anne Tsompanas for filling in for George White taking the couples and group pictures. Take a look and see what you missed or remember the fun we had.**

**USS Cabildo (LSD-16) Crewmembers Assoc.**

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**Address Correction Requested**

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