Second Bi-Annual FARRAGUT Reunion Held

We held the second Bi-Annual Reunion in Charleston, SC on the weekend of 10 to 12 October 2004. We renewed old ties and made new acquaintances on the first night of the weekend. Saturday's business meeting brought us down to business as we elected a new slate of officers (see page six) and voted to hold the 2006 reunion in Norfolk and the 2008 reunion in Baltimore.

Shipmate Randall (DDG-37, 1926-1930) stood up and volunteered (N-A-V-Y) to host the 2006 Reunion if we all agreed to try to hold the reunion at the same time and place as the commissioning of the new FARRAGUT currently in the ways at Bath Iron Works in Maine. We held a silent auction and paid our dues. We gave our association plankowners a round of applause and thanked Gene Jennings, Merle Denny, Ray Bishop and Dave Paulson for serving as the officers that made our association and the first two reunions possible. We finished our reunion with a fine banquet and more camaraderie. We look forward to the next one and hope that you will join our Association. We will be glad to see at the next reunion, Shipmate!

KEEL LAID FOR FIFTH USS FARRAGUT (DDG 99) AT BATH IRON WORKS

Authorized by Congress in FY1998 was a new flight of Arleigh Burke Guided Missile Destroyers. These greyhounds of the sea are bigger, better and ready to handle any enemies as a true "littoral warship". See http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/systems/ship/ddg-51-fit2a.htm for more specific information. On 7 January 2004, Bath Iron Works laid the keel and designated it Hull 478. “The Farragut honors Adm. David Glasgow Farragut (1801-1870). One of the Union’s great heroes, Farragut gained famed for his exploits while in command of the West Gulf Blockading Squadron during the Civil War. In 1862, his ships fought past Confederate forts to capture New Orleans, proving for the first time that cities could be taken by naval forces. In 1863 at Vicksburg, he gained control of the Mississippi splitting the Confederacy. In 1864, he boldly led his squadron through a minefield to win the Battle of Mobile Bay. Four previous ships have been named Farragut: A Torpedo Boat (TB 11, 1899-1919); a destroyer (DD-300, 1920-1930); a destroyer (DD-348, 1934-1945) that earned fourteen battle stars in World War II (including Pearl Harbor, Coral Sea, Eastern Solomons, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa); and a guided-missile destroyer (DLG-6/DDG-37, 1960-1989) that took part in contingency operations in the Atlantic and Mediterranean and earned a Navy Unit Commendation.”

This excerpt of the Secretary of the Navy’s announcement of the naming of yet another namesake ship will certainly make the Old Man proud…
What an interesting 6 months we have had since the reunion in Charleston. The USS Farragut DLG 6/DDG37 Association has undergone some transformation that many members may not know about. Three weeks after the business meeting in which Fred Colacchio was elected president, Fred resigned for personal reasons and we respectfully accepted his resignation after attempting to dissuade him. I, as the elected vice president, have assumed the position as president until the next regular election. Tony Gagliano graciously accepted the position of vice president in my place.

After a somewhat bumpy start, we have found ways to negotiate our way around some disagreement and are now making good progress on many fronts. Our first task was the design of the Association membership card which we all had input on and found common ground to produce a nice card without a lot of expense. Since it was agreed at Charleston that our next reunion would be at the time and place of the new USS Farragut DDG 99 commissioning, we asked Tom Randall to accept the task of establishing contacts with Bath Iron Works where the new Farragut is being built. As a result of Tom's outstanding efforts we are being given star treatment by the Bath facility providing seating for any and all former Farragut crew members at the upcoming Christening.

Treasurer David Paulson is doing a great job tending to our Treasury while accepting new members. We have had a good number of new members since the reunion. One of the projects on our schedule is the development of a Ship Store on our new web site and Dave will have a role in that also.

Speaking of the new web site, I hope that all will take advantage of the features of the new USS Farragut DLG 6/DDG 37 Association web site that was designed and is being operated by vice president Tony Gagliano. This is the first Farragut web site to belong to you, the members of the Association and not to any single individual. We are committed to delivering timely news and information on the site and believe this arrangement will assure that the web site will continue indefinitely with the support of Association members.

I hope many of you will be able to attend the Christening of the new ship on July 23 of this year. In the meantime we will continue to work on new ideas to improve the Association for the benefit of all members. Best regards to everyone.

Tommy Anderson, President

"I am definitely hoping to work closely with your association and all former FARRAGUT Sailors to celebrate the arrival of the fifth Navy warship to carry such an accomplished and distinguished name. Your website was one of the first places I discovered after finding out that I was to be the first CO of DDG-99. We hope to add to the fine tradition of FARRAGUT Sailors as we join the fleet! The more the merrier, I say, as far as celebrating the heritage and excitement of bringing a new ship to life”

CDR Deirdre McLay.
PCO Farragut

On the Internet there are currently three dedicated to Farragut. We lost contact with Dennis Buettner (DDG 37, 83-85) and his Home Page @ http://www.ussfarragut.com, but we regularly hear from Brian Patterson (DDG-37, 80-84). Brian owns http://www.geocities.com/pcoyote_86001/ and our Vice-President, Tony Gagliano (DLG 6, 66-68) has launched a new Homepage for us. This newsletter will be posted there with other current information. See us @ http://www.farragutassociation.org. Tony asks that you send him your stories and contribute news about shipmates that may have joined the Old Man in the rigging.
USS Farragut Christening at Bath Iron Works

I am Tom Randall, your Secretary and Reunion Committee Chairman. I want you to know that I have been actively planning the next event on our schedule – the Christening of the next Farragut in Bath, Maine. Bath Iron Works and the Prospective Commanding Officer of USS Farragut (DDG 99), Deirdre McLay, have invited us to the christening ceremony in Bath, Maine on July 23rd, 2005. Disregard any other dates you might have seen elsewhere, Senator Snowe of Maine is the ship’s sponsor will be there on that day! There is no limit on seating but I do need to submit a list of shipmates attending complete with addresses and phone numbers NLT 1 May to BIW. I can add names later, but please RSVP to me at your earliest convenience. I will acknowledge your confirmation by return mail or E-mail and I will include lodging information in that reply. (I have contracted with the Holiday Inn at Bath for a block of rooms at a very fair price for Maine in the middle of the summer tourist season.) In addition, I am trying to locate plankowners and DD 348 crewmembers to add to the list. It is up to us Farragut shipmates, to pass on the traditions of Naval service and the lore and stories of “our” USS Farragut to these new Farragut shipmates. Russ Kauffman and I scheduled to visit the DDG 99 Pre-Commissioning Detachment next month in Norfolk. They are anxious to meet us.

Thomas Randall, Secretary, Historian, Reunion Committee Chairman

Finance Report from our Treasurer, Dave Paulson

It is with pleasure that I take this opportunity to inform you, my fellow shipmates of the financial status of the USS Farragut Association. As of this writing, our Association balance stands at $2064.28. Our funds are in a not for profit account at Westconsin Credit Union in New Richmond, WI. Since the Charleston reunion, there has been a good amount of interest in, and requests for, new membership, as well as several renewals from the Evansville group. This is encouraging, and may be a direct result of the Association's new website. Dues remain at $15 per year, and it is always a good idea to keep your membership current. Of course, donations in any amount are always welcome. All it takes is a personal check payable to the Association and sent to me. If you need my mailing address or phone number, just click on the Treasurers’ link and send an email. As an elected officer of the USS Farragut Association, I am committed to serving you, the DLG-6/DDG-37 veteran. Thank you.

Dave Paulson, Treasurer

Editor’s note: We designed snazzy new membership cards to signify your commitment to the Association that is working to make every event and each meeting something that you will be proud of and remember for a long time to come.
Christening or Commissioning, Which is it?

The commissioning ceremony signifies the acceptance for service and entry of a ship into the active fleet of the United States Navy. At the moment of the breaking of the commissioning pennant, the vessel becomes a proud ship of the line. The commanding officer, along with the ship’s crew, then accepts the duties and responsibilities of making and keeping her ready for any service required by our nation, in peace or war. The commissioning ceremony has been a tradition of all navies for centuries and in the United States Navy since its beginning. It marks the formal entrance of a man-of-war into the naval forces of her country. It is the final and most significant event of the trial that brings a ship to life: keel laying, launching and christening, and commissioning. In the early periods of our nation’s history, no exact procedures for the commissioning ceremony were prescribed. Thus, a ship’s date of commissioning was recorded as any one of a number of days – when the colors were first raised, when officers and crew reported onboard, when the first log entry was made, or when the ship first put out to sea. Throughout the years, however, one visible and significant manifestation of the commissioned ship has remained constant: active ships of the United States Navy, from the days of the handsome frigates under sail to the era of the modern aircraft carrier, have proudly flown a commissioning pennant and the “Stars and Stripes.”

The commissioning pennant has for centuries been the unique symbol of the man-of-war. Today, it is flown as the distinctive mark of a ship in commission, except when displaced by the personal flag of an admiral aboard the ship. The origin of the commission pennant, like many of our traditions, can be traced back to the Royal Navy. After whipping an adversary, the British Admiral William Blake hoisted a long, narrow pennant symbolic of a horsewhip as the distinctive symbol of a man-of-war – a tradition by many world navies.

The modern U.S. Navy commissioning pennant is blue at the hoist with a union of seven white stars, and a horizontal red and white stripe at the fly.

About The 2006 Bi-Annual USS Farragut (DDG 6/DDG 37) Reunion...

The next Reunion will coincide with the Commissioning of USS Farragut (DDG 99). Membership in our Association is the best way to stay informed. All we can tell you right now is that it will be after May 2006 and we are told Norfolk or Mayport are the likely locations for the event. As your Reunion Committee Chairman, I have the latest scuttlebutt and I am ready for action. In the meantime, send me your latest address information and give me an idea what type of activities you want to have. Russ Kaufmann (DLG 6, 61-64) and I are working together to make this event worth your while here in Norfolk or there in Mayport. Wherever we met, we will have some great R & R with FARRAGUT shipmates new and old.

Aloha to all, Tom Randall, Reunion Committee Chairman (DDG 37, 76-80)

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