

USS Franklin Reunion 2008

Kansas City, MO
June 5 – 8, 2008

The 2008 USS Franklin Reunion will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center June 5th – 8th, 2008. To be hosted by Annette Bownds, in honor of Leonard Hall, her grandfather. You can contact Annette at 1-913-231-1179 or USSFranklin2008@yahoo.com.

See you there!

MM3 Justin Gillespie, USN



Justin W. Gillespie also known as MM3 Gillespie, Justin USN, is the great nephew of **Commander Donald Gary** USN Retired. Justin was always an honor student all through school and when he went to enlist in the Navy like his great uncle, his score on the ASVAB was so high he was recruited for Nuclear Power. He reported to Great Lakes Training Command on Nov. 7, 2006. His PIR was Jan.6, 2007. From there he was sent to Goose Creek in South Carolina to start his training for nuclear power. He finished his A school training and went on to Power School training. He completed his Power School in Nov. 2007 and is now in Prototype Training. When a young sailor goes into the Navy as a nuclear power prospect, they start as an E3. When they complete their A school they are automatically promoted to E4 and receive their "crows" as a Petty Officer 3rd Class. So by the time Justin was promoted he was only 19 years old. He is

scheduled to graduate from Prototype sometime in May 2008, and from there he will get his orders and report to fleet. Justin has put in for submarine duty and hopes to get San Diego or Hawaii. He will then be in charge of the nuclear reactor on the submarine and to maintain it to perfection.

Justin never met his great uncle as he had passed away long before he was born. But Justin grew up being told all about Uncle Don, and the great things he had done. He always thought that it was neat that he had a famous uncle, and felt he would like to grow up just like him. Justin was raised solely by his mother, Susan Gillespie Skidmore, who is the niece of Donald Gary. Justin has an older brother Clayton D. Skidmore who was in attendance when the USS Gary FFG51 was commissioned, even though he was only 4 years old at the time. His mother and older brother have always encouraged Justin to "go for the gold" and try and be the best at everything and make his great Uncle Don proud. I am sure the Commander is watching over this young sailor with great pride.

Yokosuka Bids Farewell to USS Gary

Navy News | SN Gabriel S. Weber | August 13, 2007

Yokosuka, Japan -- Dozens of Sailors and local Japanese civic leaders bid farewell to the Oliver Hazard Perry-class guided-missile frigate USS Gary (FFG 51) during a pierside ceremony aboard Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Aug. 9.

Gary, the only frigate in the forward-deployed U.S. 7th Fleet, will return to San Diego after eight years in Yokosuka.

“This is a celebration,” said Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Japan Rear Adm. James D. Kelly, the keynote speaker for the ceremony. “Yes, we are a little sad to see the USS Gary go back east, but she’s not going away. She’s still in the service of the U.S. Navy.”

Kelly recounted the many missions, exercises and port visits that Gary completed during the last eight years, emphasizing the ship’s engagement in a number of groundbreaking international relations visits to foreign ports.

“We are sure going to miss the Gary’s engagement capability, which really is significant, not to mention her warfighting prowess,” said Kelly. “But this is all about them; it isn’t about U.S. Naval Forces Japan, it’s about the crew of Gary.”

Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Capt. Daniel Weed, was also on hand for the ceremony and spoke of the correlation between Gary’s namesake and the ship’s crew.

“When we speak of USS Gary, we speak of legends,” said Weed. “As the USS Gary’s namesake was a heroic patriot, so are the officers and crew of the USS Gary.”

The late Cmdr. Donald Arthur Gary was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1946 for his heroic actions while serving aboard USS Franklin (CV 13) as a lieutenant. During a Japanese attack on the ship, Gary was credited with saving the lives of hundreds of the crew, leading them out of the badly damaged compartments below decks.

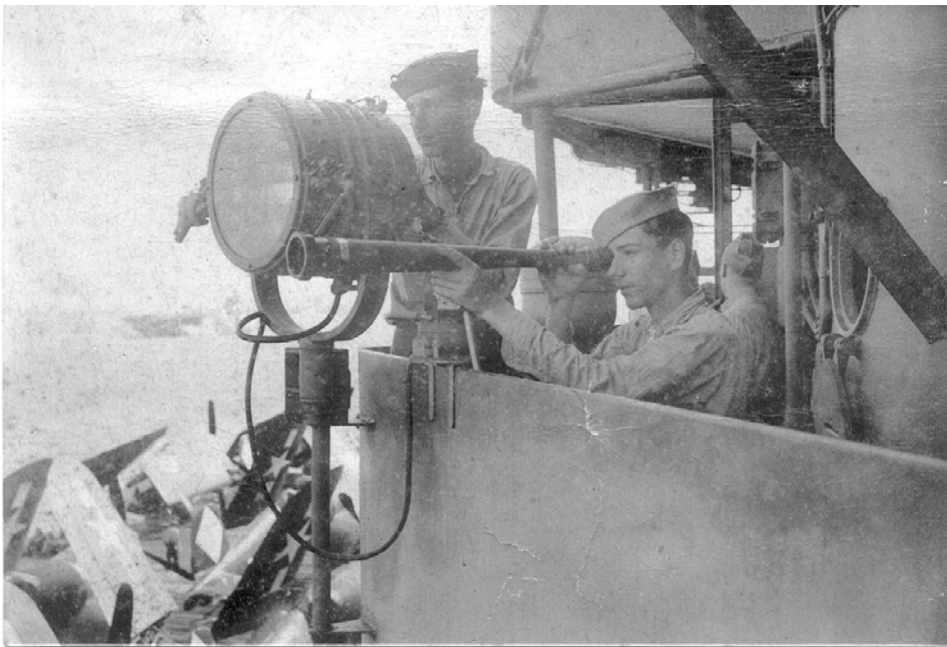
The crew of the Gary seemed to appreciate the ceremony, both for the recognition for their service and for the opportunity to recognize those who have supported them.

“It gives us a chance to thank everybody that’s helped us out,” said Sonar Technician Surface 3rd Class Michael Keys.

As Gary prepares to depart its berthing in Yokosuka for the last time, Weed summarized the emotions surrounding the ship’s departure.

“Today we say farewell to one of Yokosuka’s gray ghosts,” said Weed. “Despite our sadness, however, we are bolstered with pride as you man the watch for Tokyo Wan sea-and-anchor detail one final time.”

Sound Off...What do you think? Join the discussion.



“Tiny Tim Takes A Trip”

SM3/c Munzing on Signal Light

SM2/c Browning as Reader & Recorder

Early March 1945, possibly at Ulithi Staging Area
Photo taken by one of the film crew aboard shooting scenes of movie
“Tiny Tim Takes a Trip”

Courtesy Harry Munzing

THE STAMP THAT WAS MEANT TO BE

In November of 2004 I wrote to my Congresswoman seeking her aid in getting the US Postal Service to issue a commemorative postage stamp on the Franklin in honor all of our lost shipmates. Her prompt response, while not encouraging, did include the procedures, protocol and criteria for stamp selection. A "Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee" consisting of 14 members from all walks of life was the body to whom all questions were to be addressed. The most astonishing paragraph of the procedures states that they respond to as many as 50,000 inquiries annually. I guess I should have stopped there but I persevered. My first letter was addressed to the committee as a whole on April 8th, 2005 which was acknowledged by a postcard which I received on June 5th. Thus began an exchange of correspondence through 2006 and 2007. With each letter I received it became more evident that our plea would be turned down. As a last ditch effort toward mid year of '07, we decided to get all hands: shipmates and family members, involved by each of them writing individual letters to the Committee, and having their letter notarized. This idea resulted in 78 letters addressed to the Committee and was sent en masse with a covering letter to the manager (my pen pal) of stamp development. I felt pretty confident that this would do the trick." How could they say no?" But they did! In a letter dated July 25, 2007 they said "Based on the many letters we received, your proposal was resubmitted for review and consideration at the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee quarterly meeting last week. After careful deliberation they decided not to recommend stamp issuance."

Harry Munzing S/M 3rd class (Retired)

Did you know?

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Got a story or photos for the Franklin Forum Newsletter?

Email it to forum@ussfranklin.org

Or snail mail:

Phil Gentry

10401 Sky Trail Ct NW

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U.S.S. Franklin CV-13

March 19, 1945

32 Degrees 01' N, 133 Degrees 57' E

(24" x 18")

Lithograph

By

Robert J. Albrecht

2005

albrechtart.net

Prints available

(\$20.00 includes s/h, protective tube)

Contact Lou Casserino for print
purchases

Please call 1-561-364-8012

Association Dues

The USS Franklin Museum Association dues were due January 1, 2008. Please be sure you have forwarded your checks (\$10.00) to:

Bob Ladewig
331 Oak Hill Rd Apt A
Barrington, IL 60010-1686

Remember the dues help to keep the Association's newsletter in your mailbox!

2007 USS Franklin (CV-13)

Museum Association

Election Results

10 September 2007

| | |
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| Lou Casserino (<i>incumbent</i>) | 126 votes |
| Saul Gill (<i>incumbent</i>) | 116 votes |
| Sam Rhodes (<i>incumbent</i>) | 124 votes |
| Frank Turner (<i>incumbent</i>) | 104 votes |
| Beth Roland (<i>daughter Donald Conard</i>) | 68 votes |
| Dr. H. Prentice Baptiste (<i>son-in-law John McAvoy</i>) | 41 votes |
| Janet Stuart (<i>wife James Stuart</i>) | 40 votes |