



# DGUTS NEWS!

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE USS LAWRENCE ASSOCIATION

## SUMMER 2009 EDITION

2009  
NEWSLETTER  
INSIDE THIS  
EDITION

First we would like to welcome all those who are receiving the newsletter for the very first time. since the Association officially became a 501.c.19 non-profit veterans group last summer support for the Association has taken off. Unfortunately donations to the group are not tax deductible. 95% of our members would need to be war time veterans for donations to be tax deductible and we are unable to reach that mark. As of today we are at 52 dues paying members for 2009 which is only 7 members off from last year. However once this newsletter get to all, we expect to surpass 2008 membership. we already have several members paid out to 2013. If you haven't paid your 2009 dues please consider doing so and also pay 2010 as well. In this edition we have reunion updates from Charleston and the future years as well as the Adams Class Museum update. We also are including other items of interest.

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### SHIPMATE OF THE YEAR

GO TO WEBSITE  
TO LEARN MORE

WWW.USS  
LAWRENCE.  
COM

YOU MAY ALSO E-  
MAIL US  
THROUGH THE  
WEBSITE

### 2010 BOSTON REUNION

The 2010 Reunion will be held in Boston, MA from June 24-29, 2010. We are staying at the Crowne Plaza Boston-Natick. 1360 Worcester Road, Natick, MA 01760. Natick is about 12 miles outside of Boston. The hotels website is [www.bos-natick.crowneplaza.com](http://www.bos-natick.crowneplaza.com)

Unfortunately the Boston Area is rather expensive. We looked for a hotel that had airport transportation available and offered the best rate. There is a shuttle service available from the airport to a station a mile or so from the hotel. The hotel will pick you up at that station for free. Room rates for the stay are \$129/night + tax. This currently includes Continental Breakfast.

Please book your room as soon as possible by calling 1-508-653-8800 and ask for the USS Lawrence Reunion room rate. Rates are good for two days prior and after the reunion. Reservations will be accepted until Tuesday May 25, 2010.

Presently events are not scheduled. Several tours we are looking at include a city tour, Battleship Cove, the USS Constitution, dinner cruise, shark and whale watching, and others. If you have any ideas for things to do e-mail us at [dguts@usslawrence.com](mailto:dguts@usslawrence.com) or call 814-322-4150 and ask for Craig.

### 2009 CHARLESTON, SC REUNION

The 2009 Reunion was held this past June at the Sheraton North Charleston. The first night featured a "Welcome Reception" where everyone caught up on the last year and met new shipmates in attendance for their first reunion. This year we had a very special guest and family member in attendance. Rear Admiral Jay A. DeLoach, who is the Director of Naval History, Director of the Naval History and Heritage Command, and the Curator of the Navy. Jay was proudly introduced by his father CDR Jesse DeLoach, who served on DDG-4 as the Gunnery and Weapons Officer from 63-66. Jay's grandfather was a Chief Machinist's Mate on DD-250. Jay gave a talk about what his job entails and even brought part of his job to the reunion, a small white box with a clear lid. The box contained the original commissioning pennant from DD-250. It is ashamed that no DD-250 crewmembers were at the reunion to see part of their old ship. Below is a picture of the pennant.



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## 2009 CHARLESTON, SC REUNION (CONT)

Jay was presented with a DD-250 tie and an DDG-4 coffee mug. Also scheduled to talk was Bert Watson the President of the Jacksonville Historical Naval Ship Association (JHNSA). Unfortunately Bert had car issues the night before and was unable to make it. Instead Craig Bernat the ACVA Treasurer gave the update on the Adams Class Museum Project. Afterwards the group agreed to sponsor 3 hull plates for the refurbishment of Adams. A pen carved from wood removed during DDG-4's dismantling was raffled off with the proceeds going towards the hull plates. Monday started with a tour of Historic Charleston including a stop at the Citidal. Around lunch the group was turned loose at the historic market place for shopping, lunch, and touring on our own. Tuesday was a free day for attendees to tour on their own. Tuesday evening everyone went on a dinner cruise around Charleston Harbor. The four course meal with choice of entree was excellent. Once we returned to the hotel a special presentation was made. Andy & Cathy Roberts were presented with a "Shipmates of the Year" award. Over the past several reunions the Roberts assisted in getting fellow shipmate David Boetcher to the reunions and also helped him get around. Sadly, David passed away this past July. Wednesday was a day at Patriots Point. Folks got to tour the sub Clamagore and the carrier USS Yorktown. As a special treat all had lunch served in the Chief's Mess on the Yorktown. It was a standard navy meal served on the metal trays and consisted of that wonderful baked chicken and rice! The destroyer Laffey & cutter Ingham were both closed to to extensive repairs. After lunch we boarded the water taxi for a trip to Fort Sumter. Shipmates got to see the extensive display of old guns and what remained of this historic fort. Thursday was another free day to get about the city. Thursday evening was our banquet, raffle, and group photos. This years raffles raised \$390. There were also \$771 in ship store sales and annual dues being paid. Everyone then said their goodbyes until next year with nearly all indicating that they will be in Boston. For those that don't attend, what you are not reading about is all the other things that go on, the stories outside the planned events, and what the small groups of guys do when they get together each year. There just isn't enough space to write about all the other things. Get to one reunion and we guarantee that you will want to come back year after year.

### *Reunion thoughts from a first time attendee*

What a blast my son and I had at the Leaping Larry Reunion--I only mention the DDG-4 since none of the Old Salts, including my MMC father, from the DD-250 could make the festivities in Charleston. Although there were no shipmates from my time on board (1963-1966), the mere fact that we all had served in the same ship and could relate to the same equipment/problems/adventures over a 30-year span readily bonded us.

I was rather surprised that no officers of any year or grade attended. I can understand to a certain extent how someone who did 20 plus years and served in many ships could not make multiple yearly reunions; however, I believe that it was mentioned that little or no "brass" had attended past reunions. Unfortunate to say the least, as all enlisted, chiefs, and officers are highly encouraged to attend with all treated equally. As the "Jay 1 and Jay 2 Tag team" experienced, having a good time, enjoying the company of like-minded shipmates and their spouses, touring various local scenes, and telling the inevitable lies, excuses, and Sea Stories, does not require the distinction of grade--which is discarded at the door. Although I was formerly enlisted, the young Rear Admiral who attended with me wasn't; both of us felt welcomed and, as stated, had a great time as shipmates whether with the Master Chiefs, BM3, FTG1, or Fireman. Time has a way of equalizing us all. Am I preaching to the choir?

If there were any glitches in the total program, I didn't notice them! In good Navy parlance,  
BRAVO ZULU!!!!

Jesse "Jay" De Loach, CDR, USN (Ret.) and Jay De Loach, RADM, USN (Ret.)

## 2009 REUNION ATTENDEES

Do you recognize any past shipmates?  
If so, try to join them and their spouses  
next June in Boston, MA.

Allen Ackley 80-81  
Jim Beerman 70-71  
Craig Bernat 82-86  
John Cornwall 63  
Jay DeLoach 63-66  
Jerry "Coogan" Donnelly 61-63  
Frank Eastlack 70-71  
J.B. Graham 77-79  
David Guild 79-85  
Lewis Jones 77  
Walter Keebler 62-64  
Michael LoVaglio 71-75  
Mark Loveless 70-74  
David Padgett 71-75  
Andy Pisarcik 65-67  
Terry Pringle 73-78  
Andy Roberts 61-63  
Jerry Ryals 74-77  
Steve Sarnoski 64-65  
Len Shilling 84-86  
Jay Taylor 70-75  
Michael Webb 82-84  
Arthur Wilburn 61-62  
Dave Williamson 61-63  
Jim Williamson 61-63

## July 2008 to May 2009 Treasurer's Report

INCOME	
Startiing Balance	\$646.00
Interest	1.73
Ship Store Sales	729.70
Sales Tax Reduction	0.01
Postage	315.00
Membership Dues	600.00
Raffles & Other	786.79
TOTAL INCOME	\$3079.23
Cost of goods sold	-\$1087.03
GROSS PROFIT	\$1992.20
EXPENSES	
Raffle Prizes	\$ 75.00
Bank Fee	0.70
Business Registration Fee	125.00
Postage Paid	993.36
Printing/Supplies/Other	189.74
Advertising(Incorp requirement)	42.05
Hotel/Banquet Deposits	1000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2425.85
NET INCOME	-\$433.65

We are only showing a loss because we had to purchase more shirts for the ships store. We do not intend to make money off of postage. However since all ship store prices include priority mail flat rate shipping, a order of several items results in a difference in what we actually pay for shipping. Because of weight and shipmates living all around the country, there is no other way to calculate postage more accurately.

## FUTURE REUNIONS 2011 AND BEYOND

Many of our shipmates must plan their vacations at least a year in advance or longer. For that reason the Association is trying to schedule our yearly reunions out as far as possible in hopes that this will allow more shipmates to attend.

As long at the USS Charles F. Adams is open as the Adams Class Museum in Jacksonville, FL in 2011, this is where the reunion will be. In the event of a delay, we will hold the 2012 Reunion in Jax. If the ship is ready until after 2012, the reunions will not be switched. Dates for the 2011 Reunion are June 21-28, 2011. The hotel is the Crowne Plaza Jacksonville Riverfront. Room rates are \$115/city view, \$135/river view, and \$165/ junior suite. Book by the cutoff date and be entered in a free drawing for a room upgraded to a Junior Suite with Club Level Privileges for the \$115/night rate. Parking will be free (normally \$10/day) and the Jacksonville International Airport offers a shuttle service to all hotels for a fee.

The 2012 Reunion will be in San Diego, CA. In the event Adams is not in Jacksonville by 2011, this reunion will be moved to June 2011. We will be staying at the Town and Country Resort & Convention Center. Dates are June 19-24, 2012. Rates are \$150/night and presently includes Continental Breakfast. This is a very good rate for 3 years from now and is near today's rates.

The 2013 Reunion will be held in Texas on the Gulf Coast Area. Dates and exact location to be determined later.

The 2014 Reunion will be the USS Lawrence Homecoming Reunion. The reunion will be held in DDG-4s homeport of Norfolk, VA. Dates to be determined later.

## USS LAWRENCE ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS THE ADAMS CLASS MUSEUM RESTORATION FUND

At the 2009 Reunion everyone was given a update on the Adams Class Ship Museum progress. The Navy is at the point where they need to see major fundraising efforts take place. One of the programs the ACVA & JHNSA have developed is a Hull Plate Sponsorship. There are about 1245 4'x8' hull plates on a Adams DDG. The cost to sponsor a hull plate is \$2500. The program is open to ship groups, vet groups, businesses, & individuals. The reunion attendees were asked if the Lawrence Association would sponsor several plates. The funds would not come from the Associations account, but would rely on you, our shipmates to send in donations. Everyone agreed to sponsor plate #4 for DDG-4 with donations from all E-1 to E-6, plate #250 in honor of DD-250 with donations from the DD-250 crew and officers of DDG-4, and plate #954 which was DDG-4's original hull number with donations from all E-7 to E-9. Plaques will be made listing all those who contribute. Our Association has over 800 shipmates that get the newsletter by mail or e-mail. All the Association is asking is that you help us achieve the goal with these hull plates by making a minimum donation of \$10. If you can afford more, please contribute what you can afford. Use the form on page 5 to mail in you 100% tax deductible donation. We are getting closer to having Adams as a museum to our class. Read below....

### ADAMS CLASS NAVAL SHIP MUSEUM UPDATE

ACVA & JHNSA boards have been very busy the past year which is why updates have been slow. We have obtained three SPA-25 radar repeaters from the sub museum in Pittsburgh, PA that have been taken to Jacksonville for display. In October over the Navy Birthday Weekend, members manned a tent on the riverfront during the USS Groves ship visit. In the cold of November we attended a strip ship event at Inactive Ships in Philadelphia. We obtained 40 radar, radio, SP Phone, TDT's, and other equipment as well as an official barbers chair! The 40 & 10 radar as well as several satellite antennas are being secured from the USS Austin to replace the missing ones on Adams. In May we attended another strip ship and came away with more radio equipment. We also were able to secure a AN/UYK computer along with many ships course indicators, wind speed/direction indicators, a SPA-25 radar repeater, and other items. A visit was made to the Gunners Mate School at NTC Great Lakes in July. The school is being dismantled. If all goes well we expect to get a MK13 "One Arm Bandit" Missile Launcher & panels, ASROC control panels, 5'/54 MK42 gun EP 1 & 2 panels and the loader system, 2 SM1 test missiles, and other smaller items. We also have a visit planned in August to look for equipment at Dahlgren Naval Weapons Station. There should be gun & gun fire control equipment there.

**JACKSONVILLE UPDATE** - Recent events in Jacksonville have created an opportunity that the ACVA/JHNSA team is examining closely. The former Jacksonville Shipyard piers, about a mile east of the Acosta Bridge site on the St. Johns River, were part of a residential development project that went bankrupt. If at least one of the piers can be obtained as a site for the Adams Class Naval Ship Museum it would reduce the cost of the mooring by over \$5 million. The ACVA/JHNSA team has been meeting with Jacksonville City Council members and the Waterways Commission to obtain this alternate location for the ship museum. Given the difficult economic times this reduced cost of establishing the museum is a significant development to helping us succeed in saving the CHARLES F. ADAMS as a ship museum. Recent discussions with NAVSEA provided updates about this Jacksonville Shipyard site and new fund raising events for the project starting this Fall in Jacksonville

**SHIP RESTORATION FUND RAISING** - For the last couple of years Major Supporter and ACVA Member donations have been used in long process of submitting our Donation Application for ex-USS Charles F. Adams. Including engineering surveys, marketing studies, environmental studies and permitting. Our ACVA team has donated over \$650,000 dollars of cash and in-kind labor to support the project in developing the Donation Application and obtaining all types of shipboard equipment to restore the CHARLES F. ADAMS.

We are opening the significant fund raising drive to involve larger numbers of DDG-2 veterans to contribute to restoring 4 X 8 foot sections of hull plating for the ex- USS CHARLES F. ADAMS DDG-2 and Yards O' Concrete for pier construction. We are also planning local Jacksonville Fund Raising Events starting this Fall and we could use volunteers to assist in us in the events. Details of how you and your shipmates can help us "Restore the CHARLES F. ADAMS" can be found at [www.adamsclassddgvets.org](http://www.adamsclassddgvets.org) **JACKSONVILLE FUND RAISING** - All Adams Class Veterans in the vicinity of Jacksonville, Florida interested in supporting fund raising events are urged to contact Craig Bernat, ACVA Treasurer and Fund Raising Chairman: [fc1ddg4@atlanticbb.net](mailto:fc1ddg4@atlanticbb.net)

Sincerely,

CAPT Robert Branco (Ret)

President, ACVA

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USS LAWRENCE ASSOCIATION  
ADAMS CLASS MUSEUM SHIP  
HULL PLATE DONATION FORM

Please check the box to indicate which hull plate your donation is to be applied to.

HULL PLATES

- HULL PLATE # 4 - This plate is being sponsored by all E-1 to E-6.
- HULL PLATE # 954 - This plate is being sponsored by all E-7-E-9. This was the ship's original hull number DD-954 before being changed to DDG-4.
- HULL PLATE # 250 - In honor of our DD-250 Members. This plate is being sponsored by the Officers of DDG-4 and the Crew of DD-250.

AMOUNT OF DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

You may make a donation by credit card via the ACVA's website [www.adamsclassddgvets.org](http://www.adamsclassddgvets.org) If donating by credit card please indicate the amount above and the day of your donation here: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:

ADAMS CLASS VETERANS ASSOCIATION  
C/O CRAIG BERNAT, TREASURER  
135 ZURENDA LANE  
MINERAL POINT, PA. 15942-4505

CHECK# \_\_\_\_\_ DATED \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_ RECEIVED ON \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD DONATION DATED \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_

# WIN IN THE 2010 BOSTON REUNION RAFFLE

Here is your chance to win a free room for the 2010 Boston Reunion. The first place winner will receive free a room from June 24-29,2009, reunion registration for 2, two admissions to the "Welcome Reception", and two Farwell Banquet Dinners. The second place winner will receive a side view framed print of DDG-4 or DD-250 which can be seen on the Tin Can Sailors website. Third place prize is a pen carved from wood taken from the holes of DDG-4 during dismantling.

Here is how to enter. USS Lawrence DDG-4 or DD-250 crewmembers are entitled to one(1) free entry. No purchase is necessary, but you must register your free entry by completing the entry form on page 7 and mailing it in or you will not be entered in the drawing. You may get one(1) extra entry in the drawing for each one of the following: Pay your 2009 or 2010 dues or purchase from the ship's store. You can get additional entries by making a donation to the Association. For every \$5 you donate, you will receive one(1) free entry. The official rules are located on the website. If you don't have a computer and want a copy please call 814-322-4150. We are no longer giving away free tours in the raffle since they are no longer given to us for free. The tours are your own expense.

## SHIPS STORE

We got two great new style of t-shirts. The first is a pirate design on the back and on the front pocket area. It is a steel blue color. The second shirt has mermaids holding a glass globe with DDG-4 inside of it. These shirts are a sage green color. We also have the white shirt with a silhouette of DDG-4 in a flag banner. Pictures of these shirts can be found on the website. They were a BIG HIT at the reunion with half of the ones we ordered being sold. Don't miss out get yours now. We also have the standard ship's ball cap, patches, and there are 6 coffee mugs left. Please use the form on the next page to place your order, pay membership dues, and to enter the Reunion Raffle.

### DISABLED VETS & SUPPORT PAYMENTS

Are you receiving VA Disability and are your disability checks being garnished for child or spousal support, alimony, or other reasons? According to the United States Code, Title 38, Section 5301, this is illegal. Over the years many state courts having been ignoring federal law and illegally garnishing disability payments which are meant for a disabled vet to care for himself even though they are tax exempt and not counted as income. Many states have seen the error of their ways and are making corrections to their state laws.

You need to contact your state representative to see if the state you live in complies with the federal statute. If they don't ask them to draft and sponsor legislation to correct this issue within your state.

## WEBSITE

By late winter our newly designed website was uploaded to the web. It is packed with tons of information and more in-depth than the old version. Weekly we get reports on the number of visitors to our site. We are averaging about 20 new visitors a week. This is good news because there are about two new shipmates per week sending in their contact information that we didn't have on the roster. There are lots of photos and other items that we have yet to post. One problem with the photos is many have to be brightened up so you can actually see what is in the photo. This takes a great deal of time. Also is trying to put them in a media form that all can view. We are going to explore using the Photo Bucket website as a possible way to do this. The other option is putting the photos in a Power Point format. A new computer is needed for that and it will be coming in the future. The ship's roster online hasn't been updated due to other more pressing issues. We do however maintain a updated roster off line. Once the household chores that have been put off are done and the Adams Museum Project is further along, more time will be dedicated to the website.

### LOU GEHRIG'S DISEASE

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) is a serious neurological disease that causes muscle weakness, disability, and eventually death. Veterans are twice as likely to develop ALS as those who have not served.

New Department of Veterans Affairs regulations establish that ALS is considered a service connected disability. If you or someone you know is a veteran with ALS, contact either the Veterans Administration or a service organization such as the DAV and ask how you can apply for the benefits that you are entitled to for ALS. PAGE 6

# USS LAWRENCE ASSOCIATION

## MEMBERSHIP, SHIPS STORE, & 2010 REUNION RAFFLE ENTRY FORM

CHECK BOX	MEMBERSHIP	QTY	COST	TOTAL
<input type="checkbox"/>	2010 CREWMEMBER (NON-VOTING) Includes 1 free 2010 Reunion Raffle entry	1	FREE	FREE
<input type="checkbox"/>	2010 DUES CREWMEMBER (VOTING) Includes 1 free 2010 Reunion Raffle entry	_____	\$10	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	2009 DUES CREWMEMBER (VOTING) Includes 1 free 2010 Reunion Raffle entry	_____	\$10	_____

**TOTAL MEMBERSHIP DUES** \_\_\_\_\_

DDG-4 SHIPS STORE	SIZE(indicate qty)	QTY	COST	TOTAL
White T-Shirt flag/ship banner	M__ L__ XL__	_____	\$15	_____
Stone Blue Pirate Union Tee	M__ L__ XL__ 3XL__	_____	\$17	_____
Cactus Green Showboat Tee	M__ L__ XL__	_____	\$16	_____
Ships Ball cap		_____	\$20	_____
Coffee Mug		_____	\$13	_____
Coffee Mug (Set of 2)		_____	\$18	_____
Coffee Mug(Set of 4)		_____	\$28	_____
Blue Round Ships Patch if ordering from above		_____	\$ 6	_____
Ships Patch if not ordering from above		_____	\$ 7	_____
2010 Reunion Raffle Entry if placing ships store order		1	FREE	FREE

**TOTAL SHIPS STORE ORDERS** \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to USS Lawrence Association(optional) \_\_\_\_\_  
Includes 1 free 2010 Reunion Raffle Entry for every \$5 donated.

**TOTAL ALL AREAS** \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

RANK/RATE: \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS ON BOARD FROM \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL CHECK AND FORM TO:                   USS LAWRENCE ASSOCIATION c/o  
  135 ZURENDA LANE  
  MINERAL POINT, PA 15942-4505

CHECKS MUST BE MADE OUT TO THE USS LAWRENCE ASSOCIATION.

QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL 814-322-4150 OR EMAIL dguts@usslawrence.com

ALL PRICES INCLUDE PRIORITY MAIL SHIPPING

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER AND SUPPORT!!!

USS Lawrence Association DDG-4 & DD-250  
c/o 135 Zurenda Lane  
Mineral Point, PA 15942-4505

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

If you are not the addressee or the addressee is deceased, please indicate and return to you letter carrier.

In this issue:  
2010 Boston, MA Reunion Info

Adams Class Museum Ship  
Progress

2009 Charleston Reunion Review

Association Update

**SHIP'S STORE  
ORDER FORM ON PAGE 7**

Two new style of t-shirts available along with the style to the right. Those at the reunion loved the new ones. Get your now so you don't miss out!



**BALLCAPS**

Just like Navy issue with gold stitched lettering and a silver stitched silhouette of the ship! Fully adjustable with 6 sewn panels.

Best of all.....  
**MADE IN THE**

**COFFEE MUGS**  
Blue with ships patch emblem  
6-remaining

**SHIP PATCHES**  
Blue round jacket patch & original black shoulder command patch found during DDG-4 dismantling.

*Fair winds and following seas to our departed shipmates.....*

**DD-250**

Walter Bloodworth, Art Bracamonte  
William Harney, Tex (M.B.) Harp, Peter Sikora

**DDG-4**

David Boetcher BT3, Carroll J. Busick  
Louis R Curcio FTGSN, Raymond D. Haga  
Jonathon T. Hine, John A. Kerechuk FN  
Ollie J. Lenox MM1, James R. McGregor LCDR  
Joseph L. Sokol GMG3, Steve Taylor RD2  
Jefferson D. Via Jr. BMC

If you know of any departed shipmate not listed on the website please send us a e-mail at [dguts@usslawrence.com](mailto:dguts@usslawrence.com)