

"Mouse" town welcomes Cogswell Association

Stories, fun highlight Kissimmee reunion

For the first time in its history, the USS Cogswell DD-651 Association held a reunion in the State of Florida.

Not to belabor the difficulties, but finding a hotel in the Disney-centered Orlando area turned into a nightmare for Association secretary and reunion organizer George Overman. It was literally at the 11th hour that a friend of a contact stepped in and found us a hotel.

And a wonderful hotel it was. According to some who attended the reunion, it was one of the best hotels that ever hosted a Cogswell reunion and at a pretty incredible price considering the popularity of the resort area.

The Homewood Suites by Hilton turned out to be an incredibly friendly hotel for our reunion. Due to our shrinking numbers it has become more difficult to find venues willing to cut us a deal on our hotel rates.

(continued on Page 17)



Association President Frank Willie leads the welcome ceremony at the Kissimmee, Florida reunion.

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AUGUST 2022

In this issue:

Association Info	2-8
TAPS	9-11
Plankowner honored at	12
Air boat ride	13

Pool day in Kissimmee	14
Reunion photos	15-16
Cogswell items silent auction	19
Captain Baird recollection	21
Miscellaneous information	22
Time for a laugh	23

Association reunion future discussed in FLA.

Our usually routine business meeting at the reunion did include a couple important and long reaching discussions relating to the future of the Association.

None of us are getting younger and the stress and difficulties in traveling have made it difficult for more of our members to attend the reunions. With the reduction in attendance it has become more challenging to find decent hotels and venues who are willing to host our group at reasonable rates.

Connections that our skilled and experienced reunion planner George Overman developed over the years saved the day for the Kissimmee reunion, but we know we may not get that lucky in the future. ***(Continued on Page 18)***

A message from President Frank Wille

The Cogswell reunion in Orlando was quite successful. The hotel really worked hard to provide nice accommodations for us. Another great reunion arranged by George Overman.

Thanks to our reunion team of Jim and Joan Smith, Selena Simmermann, and Melissa Davis who worked hard to ensure everyone had a good reunion. Our banquet speaker brought us up to date about NASA and planning for a moon landing and then continuing on to Mars. Several members made sure that he knew that Alan Shepard served on Cogswell before he became a pilot and astronaut.

The reunion was held at near break even, thanks to our generous members and a successful raffle.

Planning is underway for a reunion in 2023. Watch for more details. We know that it is becoming tougher for members to travel to reunions and that is factored into our planning. Please keep in touch with the Association during the planning.

Our association agreed to donate \$200 to the Tin Can Sailor association. This helps them maintain the many museum ships around the US.

Wishing you fair winds and following seas..

Frank Wille



Frank Wille, Zola Low, Lyna Low

NOW HEAR THIS! THE SHIP'S STORE IS OPEN. NOW AVAILABLE NEW T-SHIRTS, SWEATSHIRTS AND BALL CAPS.

Selena Simmermann is the Ship's Store manager. She and husband Buddy have created some great new items. Her address is:

SK 67 Lake Cherokee,
Henderson, TX 75652.

To reach her by phone, call 903-263-1059.

Email: ssimmermann@gmail.com

Hats, t-shirts and sweat shirts are available along with other items. Contact Selena for these items and she will mail them to you with just a small added shipping charge.

See Pages 7-8 for additional items.



Shipment of "NEW" stuff for the ship's store!

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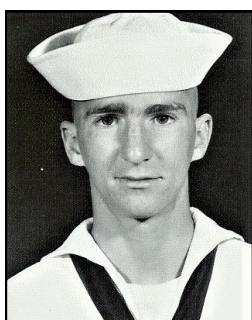
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“Smooth seas don't produce
skillful sailors.”

— Lynn Austin

ATTENTION!

If you have not received an e-mail message from the Cogswell Association in the past month it is probably because we do not have your valid e-mail address on file. Please send us your current e-mail address if it has changed recently. Send current e-mail address to: Secretary@usscogswell.com

Visit the Association Online

www.usscogswell.com

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT
USS COGSWELL DD 651 ASSOCIATION
February 1, 2022 to August 1, 2022**

Balance February 2022	\$20,696
Income	
Dues	490
Donation	5
Ships Store	917
Reunion payments	2,866
Raffle	425
Total income	4,703
Expenses	
Ships Store	325
Reunion expenses	3,872
Association Administration	1,082
Donation to Tin Can Sailors	200
Total expenses	5,479
Balance, August 2022	\$19,920

Notes:

We were understanding and gave refunds to members who had to cancel reservations for the reunion.

Thanks to our generous members, the reunion was close to break even.

USS COGSWELL ASSOCIATION

DATABASE STATISTICS as of 08/01/2022

- Active = 167 (paid dues are current) - 126 Life Members
- Inactive = 6 (have not paid dues for more than two years—house cleaning of these inactive members)
- New = 0 (New members found who were mailed a membership form, waiting for return.)
- No Interest = 564 (members who have indicated they have no interest in the Cogswell Association—some newly found who chose not to join)
- Deceased = 857 (known deceased shipmates—some newly found crewmembers)
- Not Located = 1712 (continues to be the largest number in database - we still need help locating)

New members— February 01, 2022—August 01, 2022

Last Name	First	City	State	Years Aboard	Rank
WINSLOW	BRIAN	WEBSTER	NY	N/A	FAMILY

Known Deceased since February 01, 2022

Last Name	First Name	City	St	Years Aboard	Rank
BITTING	CLIFFORD	ALBION	IN	64-66	RD2
HOSLEY	RAY	RAYMORE	MO	53-54	DK2
O'TOOLE	MICHAEL	WETHERSFIELD	CT	43-44*	SM3
RAHN	WILLIAM	READING	PA	51-53	RM3
REXWINKLE	JOE	COFFEYVILLE	KS	62-63	MM3
SCHLIEBE	DERALD	HILLSBORO	OR	51-54	MM3

*Plankowner

A letter from your editor

Maybe it's just me, but the days of the calendar are racing by like one of those cartoon calendars where the pages peel off in rapid succession. The older I get the faster they go.

It was so great to see shipmates and friends at the Orlando reunion in June. As always the time at the reunion flew by and too soon it was time to say our good byes. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a discussion about the future of the USS Cogswell DD-651 Association reunions.

I know for me I pray that we will have future reunions in whatever form they might take.

My summer has been busy, which is why this newsletter is coming out late in August rather than the beginning. I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health and happy.

Each passing newsletter brings the realization that more and more of us are crossing the bar. It is with great honor and privilege that I try to include not just the facts about our shipmates' Navy life but also some details on what they did both before and after their service.

It has been nearly 20 years since I joined the Cogswell Association and my only regret is that I didn't find it sooner. It would have been great to have attended those early reunions with more of our World War II shipmates. I was able to meet a few at the Buffalo, New York and San Diego reunion but sadly they are all gone now.

I can't blame the Association for not locating me as the information they had for me was James Smith, Los Angeles, California. Even the most skilled investigator would not be able to find that fugitive. I still remember the excitement I felt when I realized there was a group that represented my first ship.

As much as I joke about George Overman, I have really come to be amazed about all that he does to keep us going. Even though we didn't serve on the Cogswell at the same time, we have become good friends. All of us in leadership of this Association know that George is the glue that holds all this together. If you get a chance give him a shout out and let him know that you appreciate him.

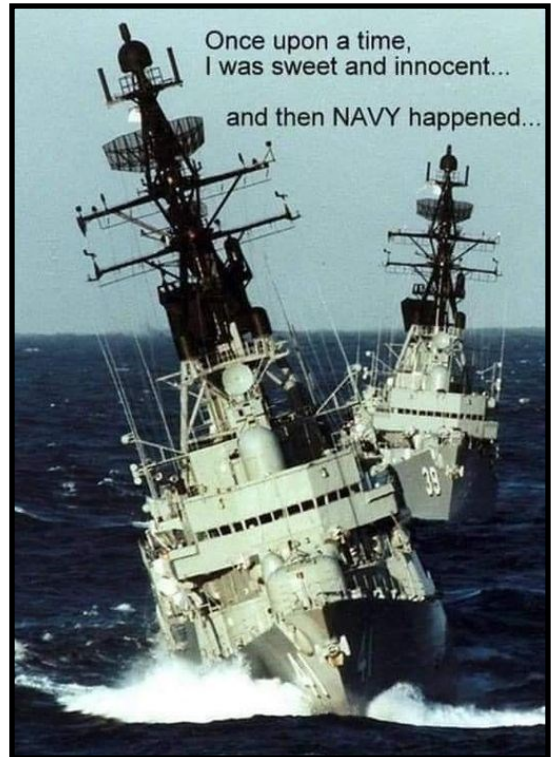
Heck, just his transport of all the memorabilia stuff to reunions and then setting up and taking it all down should probably give him sainthood. Now George is working on making sure that all those wonderful items we have collected will be donated to a good and worthy home where they may continued to be enjoyed into the future. More about that elsewhere in the newsletter.

Speaking of memorabilia, our Association President (and treasurer, by the way), who is a great helmsman of this organization, saved a few items and is making them available through a silent auction, which you can find on Page 19 in this newsletter.

In addition to the obituaries please check out the pictures of the recent reunion.

One last thing, some of you met my Dad, Lee Smith, at the Herndon, Virginia reunion and had him as a tour guide at the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum at Dulles Airport. You may also recall that in the last newsletter I bragged about him because of his tandem parachute jump at 96-years-old in Tucson, Arizona.

I'm proud to say I am going to accompany him on an Honor Flight from Louisville to Washington, D.C. in September. Thanks to Don Tennant, who served as an officer aboard the Cogswell during part of my service on her, who has kept in contact with my father over the past few years.



Your editor on fantail lookout.

service on her, who has kept in contact with my father over the past few years.

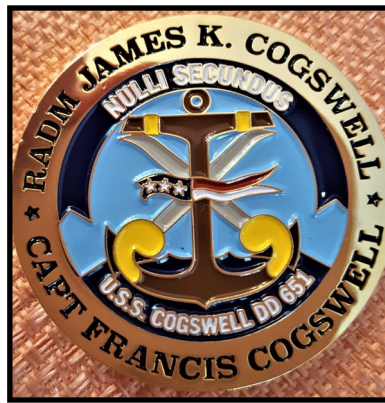
Items in the Cogswell Ship's Store



Embroidered cap (wear it for unexpected discounts at retailers)



Carry bag available to order



Front 1



Front 2



Carolyn Sessions models the Cogswell blanket.



Common back

See next page for exciting new USS Cogswell plaque.

See Ship's Store ad on Page 2 for ordering information.

Our terrific new ship's store operator, Selena Simmerman has been working hard to create new items for sale. See page 2 and below for ordering information.

Use SHOP Drop Down Menu on Left to Browse or Use Search Beneath Cart On Right

Home Shop Our Story Contact Us Bulk Purchases

Shop > USS Cogswell 12" Laser Carved Wood Plaque



USS Cogswell 12" Laser Carved Wood Plaque

\$50.00 Free Shipping!

Special Instructions

QTY

1

Add to Cart

Navy USS Cogswell 12" Laser Carved Wood Plaque Laser Carved Wood Plaque Use our contact form or e-mail me at marge@precisionwoodcraftingok.com. Be sure to include a phone number and e-mail address in case I need to contact you.

<https://precisionwoodcraftingok.com/> To purchase contact Marge@precisionwoodcraftingok.com. Include an email and phone number in case they need to contact you.

McAfee SECURE

11:20 AM 1/11/2020

Tom Lamson (RM3 67-68) is one of the first Association members to purchase one of the custom designed 12-inch Cogswell plaques shown above. Selena has purchased three plaques for sale and one for the reunion auction. If you want one like Tom's you'll need to contact Precision Wood Crafting on your own. Use the web-site address above or email the company at: Jim@precisionwoodcraftingok.com. There is no charge for artwork and the price includes standard shipping. Tom said his plaque was \$45, but he received a \$5 discount, so \$40. Larger sizes are available. Contact them for the cost of the larger sizes.





TAPS



Derald D. Schliebe

Derald D. Schliebe, who served aboard the USS Cogswell DD-651 from 1951-54, died September 9, 2021 at his home in Hillsboro, Oregon. He was 90.

Derald's Naval career ended on April 30, 1958 at the Headquarters of the Thirteenth Naval District in Seattle, Washington. He was honorably discharged with a rank of MM3. He joined the Navy in 1951 and served seven years and three months.

He was born on May 6, 1931 in Columbia, South Dakota, the 8th of 11 children.

Following his military service, Derald worked as a millwright at Western Kraft/Willamette Industries in the fiber board box plant, retiring after 36 ½ years at age 62.

He operated a welding business out of his home shop for many years with help from his sons building wrought iron railings among other projects. A true artist he made more than 150 crosses for family and friends.

On July 21, 1957, Derald married Evelyn Elizabeth Erickson in Hillsboro, Oregon. They were married 64 years.

Following his retirement, Derald and Evelyn participated in several church mission trips to Guatemala and Panama as well as helping in rebuilding efforts following Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. They were also frequent attendees at Cogswell reunions over the years.

A longtime member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Blooming, Oregon he served in many positions at the church including



Evelyn and Derald reunion photo

as an elder, on the church council, usher and in the choir, partly because he had to because Evelyn was the choir director.

He loved playing pinochle and in his early years enjoyed hunting and spending time on the Oregon coast clam digging, living at the beach house that he and Evelyn built by themselves.

He was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers and four sisters.

Survivors include his wife, Evelyn, four children, two brothers, nine grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.



Derald D. Schliebe

Michael J. O'Toole Sr.

Deacon Michael J. O'Toole, Sr., a USS Cogswell DD-651 plankowner, died June 14, 2022 after a brief illness in Wethersfield, CT. He was 97. **(See article on Page 12 on his recent honors in the Memorial Day Parade)**

A native of Portland, ME, he briefly lived in Ireland with his parents before returning to Portland. In 1943, Michael enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was assigned to the USS Cogswell as part of its first crew.

He was one of six children and grew up during the depression and worked from a young age to help support his family. In addition to selling newspapers, he collected "alchy" bottles and eventually worked for Western Union delivering telegrams.

With his experience at Western Union, Michael used his Morse Code skills to achieve the rank of Signalman First Class aboard the Cogswell. Using math skills he calculated the furthest point in Portland to achieve the maximum payment for his discharge travel pay home, his family said.



Michael J. O'Toole Sr.

Using the GI Bill, Michael graduated from Georgetown University and following his graduation began a successful career in sales and received many sales achievement awards during his career with US Steel Cyclone Fence.

He met the love of his life, Mildred "Millie" Cowen and they were married in 1951. When a sales territory in Connecticut became available in 1956, the couple moved to Newington, CT and raised six children there.

A devout Catholic, Michael was a member of the first group of ordained Deacons in the Diocese of Hartford. During his years as a deacon he baptized many children, counselled many marriage couples and presided over wakes and funerals always leaving families with the Francis de Sales "Be at Peace" prayer.

He was civic minded and was involved with many activities throughout the community. He was appointed to the Governor's Council, Department of Developmental Services where he served two terms. As his family was growing he coached youth basketball and rarely missed his children's summer swimming meets. An avid painter, Michael also loved to fish.

Michael was passionate about his health and for more than 50 years was a regular at the Newington High School track.

Survivors include his wife Millie, his six children, eight grandchildren, a sister, a brother and many nieces and nephews.

A private funeral at West Meadow Cemetery on June 20th was held with military honors.



TAPS

(continued)



Joe E. Rexwinkle

Joe E. Rexwinkle, who served aboard the USS Cogswell DD-651 in the early 1960s, died at his home in rural Edna, Kansas on March 6, 2022. He was 79.

Born at home on September 12, 1942 in Craig County, Oklahoma, he grew up around Edna, Kansas where he attended school. After graduation from high school he earned his draftsman certification at Coffeyville Vo-Tech.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy on September 9, 1960 and earned the rank of MM3. After three years of service he was honorably discharged and served in the Naval Reserves until September 8, 1966.



Joe Rexwinkle

A special lady caught Joe's eye, Penny Hartley, who he took to the Fair and rodeo on their first date. The two married on May 31, 1965 in Miami, Oklahoma. They made their life long home near Edna, Kansas.

According to his obituary, Joe was very skilled and talented and had remarkable problem-solving skills. He worked as a machinist

for Magic Circle then went to Atlas Steel Buildings where he worked as a draftsman. Later he worked for Jencast as a machinist and pattern maker. He retired from Jencast in 1987.

Joe enjoyed hunting, fishing, trapping and anything that took him outdoors. He coached all of his three children in multiple sports and was there to cheer on his grandchildren as well. He enjoyed rodeo, first as a bull rider and bareback rider, later supporting his sons in rodeo and watching as a fan.

Survivors include his wife, Penny, a daughter and two sons, 8 grandchildren and one great granddaughter, two brothers, three sisters and many extended relatives and friends. Grave-side services were held August 13, 2022 at North Edna Elm Grove Cemetery in Edna, Kansas.



Clifford J. Bitting

Clifford J. Bitting, who served as an RD2 aboard the USS Cogswell DD-651 between 1964-66 died at home in Albion, Indiana on July 29, 2022. He was 81.

Born September 29, 1940 in Whitley County, Indiana Clifford grew up in Merriam and graduated from Wolf Lake High School in 1958.

Following high school he enlisted in the U.S. Navy on Nov. 2, 1959 and was honorably discharged after seven years of service in 1966.

He married Charla Sherman on Oct. 27, 2006, in Albion.

He was a member of the Albion American Legion Post 246. As a veteran, he participated in the Northeast Indiana Honor Flight to



Clifford J. Bitting

Washington D.C. in May of this year and attended the reunion for the U.S.S. Cogswell in Kissimmee, Florida, in June.

Accompanying him to the Cogswell reunion was his daughter, Kelly Elias and one of his grandsons. We received the following note from Kelly when she notified the Association of Clifford's death.

"I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for such a lovely week in Orlando," Kelly wrote. "My father passed away last week unexpectedly, and I'm so glad he was able to attend the reunion. I regret that he didn't go to more of them, and we were making plans to attend the next one, but I know it meant the world to him to be able to connect with you and show my son and me a small glimpse into his past. Again, thank you so much for those few days. It was something that my son and I will never forget!"

In 1977, he moved from California with his family to the Bitting Family Farm, where he had enjoyed his childhood years and lived there until 2006.

He retired from Noble County Rural Electric Membership Cooperative in 2002. After retirement, he refused to sit still. He stayed busy farming, raising beef cattle, and gardening on the Bitting Family Farm.

He loved hunting, fishing, working outside, and also enjoyed racing. He found value and pride in seeking out ways to help others. Being a grandpa and great-grandpa brought a lot of joy into his life.

Surviving is his wife of 15 years, Charla; a daughter, two sons, seven grandchildren, five great grandchildren, and a nephew.

Funeral services were held August 3, 2022. Burial was in Merriam Christian Chapel Cemetery.



TAPS

(continued)



William J. Rahn

William J. Rahn, who served aboard the USS Cogswell DD-651 during the Korean War, died January 21, 2019 at the Lutheran Home at Topton in Pennsylvania. He was 87.

A native of Temple, Pennsylvania, he was a graduate of Muhlenberg High School and Wyomissing Polytechnical Institute.

William worked for 40 years at Reading Body Works until his retirement in 1999 as vice-president of product engineering.

During his service on the Cogswell he was an RM3.

A member of Christ Church, United Church of Christ, Temple, William served as a deacon and elder on consistory. He was also a member of St. John's Lodge No. 435 F&AM, Rajah Shriners and many local fire companies.

He enjoyed the Reading Phillies, the Philadelphia Phillies, spending time on his porch and lunch with friends. He obtained a single engine pilot's license at the Kutztown Airfield.

Jo Ann (Proudfoot) Rahn, William's wife of 42 years died in 2012. He was also preceded in death by his son, Bradley D. Rahn in 1989 and a brother and sister.

He is survived by his 2 daughters and 2 granddaughters. Funeral services with military honors were held on January 24, 2019 at the Klee Funeral Home in Shillington, Pennsylvania.



William J. Rahn

Ray Howard Hosley

Ray Howard Hosley, who served on the USS Cogswell DD-651 from 1953-54, died at St. Luke's Hospital East in Lee's Summit, Missouri on July 6, 2018. He was 89.

Born on November 2, 1928 in Kincaid, Kansas, Ray was the third of four sons. Following graduation from Kincaid High School he enlisted and served in the U.S. Navy.

Following his service he was employed at Amoco Oil Company, where he worked for 40 years retiring as Manager of General Accounting for the Midwest.

On September 24, 1955 Ray married N. Kay Austin. She preceded him in death. He was also preceded in death by a daughter and two brothers.

Survivors include his son, four grandchildren and one great grandson.

Funeral services were held July 10, 2018. He was interred at Longview Cemetery.



Ray Howard Hosley

**"Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;
For though from out our bourne of Time and
Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crossed the bar."**

— Alfred, Lloyd Tennyson, "Crossing the Bar"

**"I must go down to the seas again, to the
lonely sea and the sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer
her by;
And the wheel's kick and the wind's song
and the white sail's shaking,
And a grey mist on the sea's face, and a grey
dawn breaking."**

— John Masefield, "Sea Fever"

Cogswell plankowner honored

Michael J. O’Toole is Grand Marshall of Connecticut parade

(Editor’s Note: This story was written in early June. We later learned later that Michael died following a brief illness. See obituary on Page 9 for more)

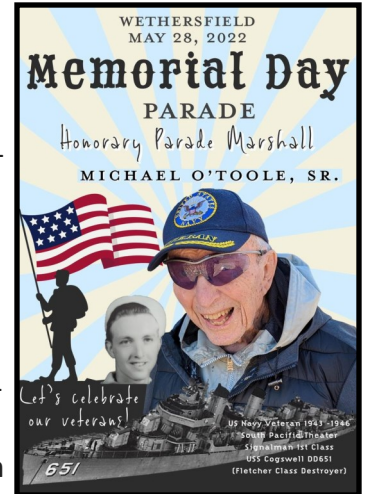
Michael O’Toole Sr., a USS Cogswell DD-651 plankowner, was the Grand Marshall of the 2022 Wethersfield, Connecticut Memorial Day Parade.



A number of political dignitaries also participated in the parade and honored O’Toole.

Photos and information were sent to the newsletter by his son, Michael O’Toole Jr.

Michael O’Toole senior enlisted in the U.S. Navy in February 1943 and was selected to be on the first crew of the newly minted Fletcher class destroyer.



Parade poster

He served as a First Class Signaller during his time on the Cogswell.

“His strongest memories were of the Battle of Truk and the beginning of the Japanese using Kamikaze flyers,” said Michael Jr.

Following his discharge in 1946, his father used the GI Bill to attend and graduated from Georgetown University.



Michael O’Toole surrounded by family at parade

Mike and Mildred, the woman he married in 1951, moved to Newington, Connecticut and raised their six children.

Mike Jr. said his father was active in his

local community and as a deacon in the Roman Catholic Church. Mike Sr. turned 97 in March.

He has a goal of walking in a Memorial Day parade when he is 100 years old.

“My Dad smiled from start to finish of the parade,” Mike Jr. said.



(Above) U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal and Connecticut Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz flank Michael O’Toole at the parade.

(Lower left) U.S. Representative John Larson poses with Michael O’Toole at the parade



An airboat ride to remember

Cogswell shipmates head out on the open water again

On a hot, sweltering Florida day, a game group of former Cogswell sailors, their friends and family booked a ride on Wild Willy's Air Boat Tours on Lake Tohopekaliga in St. Cloud, Florida.

Plans came together quickly on Tuesday morning and initially nine people signed up, but when the booking person said if we could get 5 more people we could have our own boat.

A quick tour of the hotel lobby and hospitality room resulted in a full boat.

The 14 people piled into two cars and headed to St. Cloud, Florida for the 50-minute drive to the attraction.

Once onboard the group was treated to a high speed tour of the lake and while the alligators were scarce the air boat captain was able to find three mother alligators. There were also birds, but mostly with the board moving at a high speed it was a break from the oppressive heat and humidity.

In fact during one stop, the boat captain could tell the group was getting uncomfortably warm and said, "let's get the air conditioning going again."

Following the one hour tour, the group disembarked and many were treated to holding a rescued baby alligator named "Sergio."

Now hungry and hot, the group piled back into the crowded cars and headed to "Crabby Bill's" which turned out to be a really nice restaurant in St. Cloud's.

It was a day of fun, laughter and great fellowship and just a couple angry female alligators.



Momma gator watches out



The air boat crew

(Right) Skimming over Lake Tohopekaliga at 40 knots on a hot and muggy Florida day.



Bettie Baker holds "Sergio"

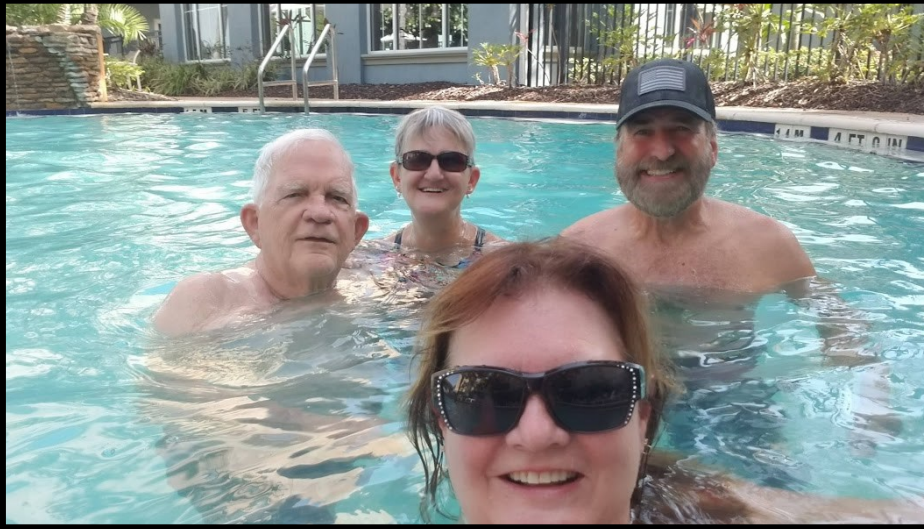


Ernesto Perez (STG2 1966-69) and Teresa Lopez pose with "ally."



Cogswell Pool Party in Orlando

Unlike previous USS Cogswell DD-651 reunions, the Kissimmee, Florida event did not include any formal tour. After our previous reunion many attendees expressed a desire to spend more time together at the host hotel and less time getting on and off tour buses.



Some folks went shopping, others found non-Mickey Mouse activities, other local attractions and few souls went off on an air boat adventure (see Page 12).

But a number of folks spent time hanging around the hospitality room and a few decided to cool off in the hotel pool. The weather, being as hot and steamy as it was, made that a pretty good activity.

Others did make it to Disney Springs, a non-amusement park place, that includes a number of pricey, but good restaurants.

(Photos by Selena Simmermann)

Gales Sessions (EM2 1964-67) , Melissa Davis, Buddy and Selena Simmermann enjoy an afternoon in the hotel pool.



Enjoying a shower



John (QM3 1967-69) and Louise Helliwell cool off on a hot day.

Hospitality room photos



Vice-President Jim Smith (QM 1966-67) leads the "MIA" ceremony that has become a feature at all recent reunions.



Mike Adamsen (BT/EO 1958-60) looking over Cogswell memorabilia



Walt Dziedzic (Officer 1959-62) presents George Overman (RM2 1964-66) with a "Drink Every Afternoon" shirt.



Some of this happened too.

These and many more photos will be included in the reunion photo book.

More Reunion photos, etc.



Gale Sessions (EM 1964-67) works a dubious magic trick.



Closing banquet room dinner



The lives of the party. Selena Simmermann, Gale Sessions and Melissa Davis display family t-shirts.



Checking out some fine old cars

(continued from Page 1) Our hospitality room was large and provided plenty of room for our memorabilia, sale items, auction items, adult beverages and snacks.

The walls of that room heard old and new sea stories and welcomed three first time reunion attendees. Clifford Bitting (RD2 1964-66), Thomas Stombaugh (MM 1955-57) and Howard Williams (CS3 1969-69) were the three new reunion attendees.

Sadly, Clifford Bitting died just a short time after the reunion and you can read his obituary on Page 10 and see what his daughter, Kelly Elias who along with his grandson, Ryker, accompanied him to the reunion, said about what it meant to him to be there.

Cogswell veterans began arriving at the hotel during the weekend prior to the Tuesday, June 14 opening of the reunion. By Monday night, many veterans were on hand and began the sea story telling early.

The \$106 a night hotel rooms included free parking, almost unheard of in Orlando, and a full free breakfast each morning.

At the opening night of the reunion, President Frank Wille welcomed all to the reunion. Earlier in the day hotel representatives met members in the hospitality room and did their own welcome.

Following the opening remarks, Vice-President Jim Smith performed the MIA "Missing Man" ceremony which has become a feature at all recent reunions.

Selena Simmermann, who has done a great job with stocking and improving our "ship's store" and her sister, Melissa Davis did a great job running the silent auction. Many folks went home with great gifts and the Association raised about \$425 from the raffle of donated items and \$706 from purchases at the Ship's Store. Thanks to those who donated raffle items.

Because the reunion fell on flag day, Louise Helliwell, wife of John Helliwell (QM3 1967-69) purchased small American flags for everyone to hold during the event.

Everyone was on their own for dinner Tuesday night but most returned to the hospitality room and continued the sea stories well into the evening.

On Wednesday, it was every man and woman for themselves. For the first time, no planned or formal tours were offered based on the surveys and requests of prior reunion attendees who said they no longer wanted to spend a long day on a tour bus.

A group of 14 ended up on an air boat ride in St. Cloud, Florida (**see Page 13 for story and photos**), others went shopping or sightseeing and another group stayed behind at the hotel and enjoyed the beautiful pool (**See page 14**).

On Thursday morning our Association business meeting was held in the hospitality room with a serious discussion about the challenges of holding future reunions and the eventual disposal of all the items in the traveling Cogswell museum. A separate story about those issues are in this newsletter.



Banquet banner



Mat "Mas" Wittal of NASA spoke about project Artemis a planned trip to the Moon and beyond.

All too soon it was time for our closing banquet which was preceded by our customary pre-dinner photo session.

In addition to Clifford Bitting, mentioned earlier in this article, we had several family guests at the banquet dinner including George Overman's niece Eva Mixco and her husband, Dr. Roberto Mixco, Mike Adamsen was joined by family members Tiffany, Kelly and Steve Kelly, Chuck and Bettie Baker were joined by daughter Danni Hejl, Gale Sessions once again brought his two wonderful daughters and son-in-law, Melissa Davis and Buddy and Selena Simmerman, Jim Smith invited his sister-in-law and brother-in-law Denny and Diane Dollard, of Buffalo, New York, as well as his aunt and uncle Pete and Judi Caravella, who live in nearby Vero Beach. Pete Caravella is a World War II submariner who served on the USS Chubb SS-329.

Pete Caravella later said he loved being with "his people" and was honored to be invited. George Overman presented the always poignant "necrology" which listed all the shipmates who have died since the last reunion. The new video and musical presentation leaves a lot of moist eyes in the room.

Our dinner speaker was Mat "Mas" Wittal, an automation and robotics systems engineer at nearby NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

Mat is working on the ambitious commercial and international mission "Artemis" which is hoping to land the first woman and first person of color on the Moon and explore the lunar surface more than ever before. The eventual goal of this program is to establish a base on the moon as a launching pad to an eventual Mars manned Mars mission.

Mat is a Navy veteran who is a doctoral student at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He holds a bachelor of science degree in Space Physics and an master's degree in Aerospace Engineering from Embry-Riddle.

Following the dinner everyone retired to the hospitality room for some last minute story telling and fellowship.

(Continued from Page 1) The Board of directors (**See Page 2**) made a decision earlier this year to not do our usual reunion survey and search until we visited with members who attended the reunion. The next reunion was scheduled for the Mountain Time Zone and we are looking for a venue somewhere in the middle of the country, possibly Rapid City, South Dakota, where the travel would be sort of equal for everyone who lives on the two coasts.

An informal survey George took this summer shows 17 shipmates definitely wanting to attend another reunion, 17 who are at least interested and 33 who are not interested. An even bigger number didn't respond to the survey.

Our brief involvement with the USS Wedderburn Association is likely over as the Association for that ship has in effect disbanded. George and his reunion contacts are working on other potential connections with other destroyer groups. Stay tuned for that and a potential reunion in the fall of 2023.

Finding venues is a numbers game, the more numbers, the better the deal. The Association is actively seeking your input for ideas or suggestions. Contact George or Frank Wille with any of those ideas.



There was a lukewarm response to joining with the annual Tin Can Sailors reunion, but that could be a possibility down the road.

Perhaps smaller or more targeted reunions could be coordinated among members who wanted to meet in a more regional way. Anyway, let us know what you think and want. It is your Association after all.

The second big issue involved the fairly large collection of

Cogswell memorabilia that we have amassed over the years. The responsibility for keeping our traveling "museum" has fallen to George and because most of us have seen and enjoyed the items at various reunions there is not a lot of point to having George keep hauling this stuff back and forth across the country.



Commissioning bottle and plaque

Some of the items of a personal nature (cruise books, plaques) have been put up for silent auction in this newsletter. (**See Page 19**) If you are interested in those respond by the deadline date.

Some of the more notable items are pictured on this page and page 20 were offered to and eagerly accepted by the USS Kidd DD-661 Museum in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The donation will be permanent and at least it will provide a place for people to see the history of our beloved Cogswell, a sister ship to the Kidd.



A large quantity of photos from World War II to Vietnam



Special holiday menus from 1951 and 1952

The USS Kidd was named for Medal of Honor recipient Isaac C. Kidd Sr., who was killed aboard his flagship USS Arizona during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. She is one of only four Fletcher-class destroyers still preserved as museums and the only know destroyer preserved in her World War II configuration.

The Historic Naval Ships Association, an organization whose fleet spans several nations scattered across five continents, recognizes the USS Kidd as one of the most authentically restored vessels in the world.

In addition to the ship tours, the USS Kidd has a fairly new museum complex where some, or all of our artifacts can be stored and displayed. It only seemed fitting that these historic items would end up in a museum dedicated to a Fletcher class Navy destroyer.

Finally, the Association made a \$200 donation to the Tin Can Sailors organization to further the care of the museum ships.



Cogswell Memorabilia Items for Auction

While going through the Cogswell memorabilia that we want to donate, we came across a few items that the boss (Frank) thought we should offer to the membership in the form of an auction.

So, here is the process:

1. Look at the items and bid on any item you have an interest to purchase.
2. Send an email to Secretary@usscogswell.com with the description of the item and the price you are willing to pay. If no email send a letter to USS Cogswell DD-651 Assoc, 3784 Mission Ave, Ste 148 #1016, Oceanside CA 92058
3. Minimum bid for each item is \$20 and all cruise books are sold separately.
4. Postage of approximately \$10 per item will be added to your quote. (Flat rate envelope)
5. The Secretary will keep a spreadsheet with the name of who bid and the price quoted.
6. Deadline for the secretary to receive bids is September 15, 2022.
7. Winners will be announced by September 30, 2022.



Squadron Plaque (Solid Brass)



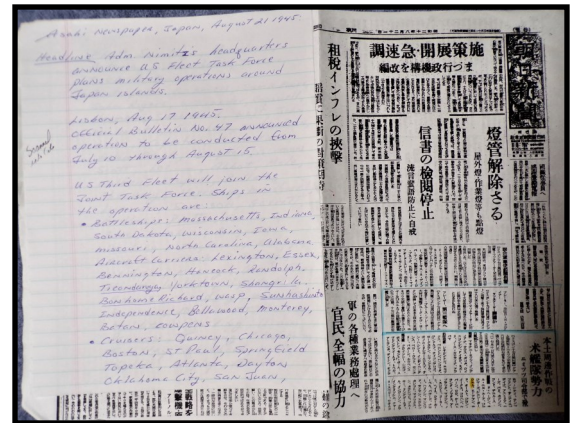
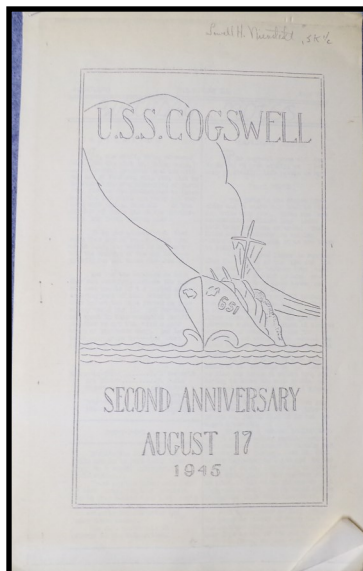
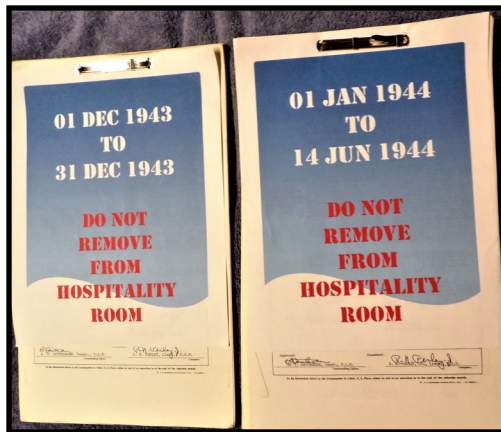
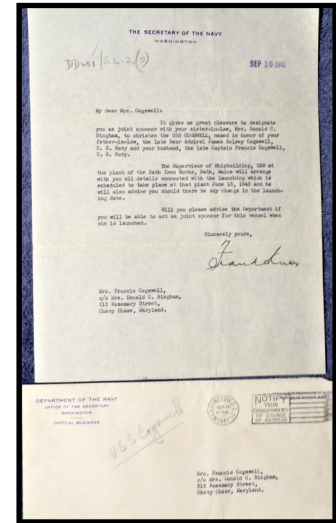
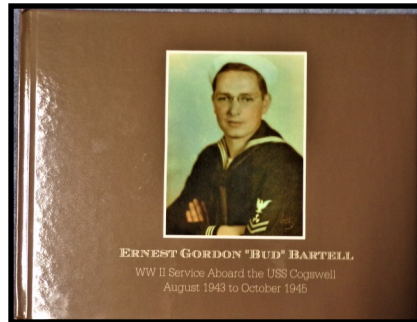
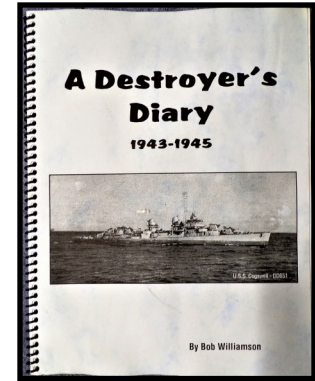
Cruise Books:

- 1952-3 (1)
- 1960-61 (2)
- 1962 (1)
- 1966-67 (2)
- 1968 (2)



Plaque (In color)

The Cogswell collection donated to the USS Kidd museum includes books and diaries compiled by crewmen. Photos, foreign currency and historic letters, one signed by World War II Secretary of the Navy to the Cogswell family, deck logs and other miscellaneous items. This page has just a few samples of what was donated.



Written translation of a 1945 Japanese newspaper article about the American fleet

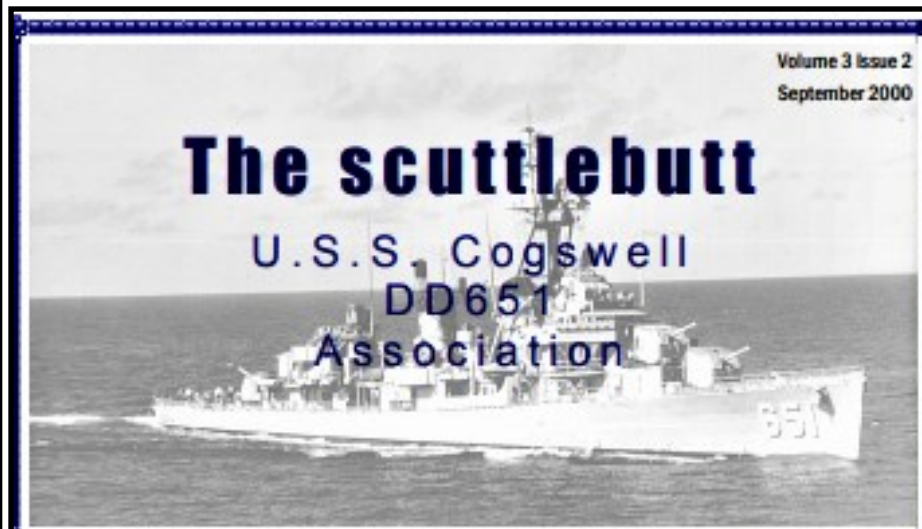


Captain Orlie Baird reflects on his Cogswell service

(Editor's note: Going back over past Scuttlebutts it is fun to see some of the articles in those first editions. A lot of the Cogswell shipmates have fond memories of Captain Orlie Baird. This article appears to have been solicited by the editor of the Scuttlebutt at that time. The screen shot of the page was fuzzy enough so the article was transcribed for ease of reading)

"In early 1964 I received orders to take command of the USS Ingersoll but after a couple of weeks I received a change in my orders to take command of the USS Cogswell instead. Shortly after the general message carrying orders to officers that included my name came out, I received a letter from an old friend congratulating me on my orders (we had been room mates as midshipmen). He was serving as an aide to a Vice Admiral in Norfolk at the time, and the short letter had a post script written in large letters: My boss (VADM Harold Deuteran) says you can borrow the Cogswell, but you can't have her. She belongs to him!" **(Editor's note: Deuteran was the Cogswell's World War II captain)**

After I had been on board the Cogswell for a short time and started to get a bit checked out on the ship, I heard on the "bilge telephone" that I had acquired a new nickname. Evidently I had been lucky and did a few things that struck the fancy of the crew and they were starting to refer to me as "Sweet Old Baird." Now almost everybody wants to be popular, but most Skippers fancy themselves as macho types and "Sweet Old Baird" had a rather pansy sound. So by using some of the personnel and locations



Recollections By Captain Orlie Baird, Ret.

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CAPT. ORLIE BAIRD

ducey board in the Chief's Quarters, etc.) I suggested that although I appreciated the sentiment behind the nick name, it would be nice if I could be called something else. And all hands were very considerate and responsive, as almost immediately and from then on they just used the abbreviation, and simply called me: SOB.

Are either of these two tales something of the order you had in mind? Your offer of a hunting license to spill the beans on some of the J.O.s was tempting, but common sense tells me that there are a lot better stories that they remember about my idiosyncrasies, so will pass on that for now. Frank Wille may already be putting down some of the things he remembers about me and starting up the J.O. protective organization again.

It's a shame you weren't able to get something from Captain Crenshaw. He has written books, and in his book: "Naval Shiphandling" in the chapter "Mariners at Work" he provides two maneuvering examples with Cogswell as the ship involved. The book was very useful to me over the years, as Captain Crenshaw has a knack for describing and explaining things. I still keep a copy in my library.

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Editor's note: Captain Orlie Baird died in March 2015 his obituary is in the August 2015 Scuttlebutt: Captain Russell S. Crenshaw died in 2017. His obituary can be found in the August 2017 Scuttlebutt)

Tin Can Sailors - A group worth joining

For those who love destroyers (and who wouldn't?) The National Association of Destroyer Veterans is a group you should consider joining. They publish a great quarterly newsletter and offer announcements of coming events of interest to anyone who has served aboard a destroyer. TCS supports museum ships across the country and membership offers free or discount admission to most of them. Field days offer a chance to work on a museum ship and Bull Sessions offer one-day opportunities to meet with other tin can sailors. To join call (800) 223-5535.

A membership also comes with free or reduced admission to many of the museum ships that are supported by donations from the Association.

To find coming events such as TCS reunions or Bull Sessions, go to destroyers.org or For more information on any event, see The Tin Can Sailor newspaper or call the office at **(508) 677-0515**.



Tell us your stories

Just a reminder that this is your newsletter. If it is going to be of interest to you we need to hear from you about what you want to read and hear about. Many of you have been very helpful, but others have been silent. We realize that you may be silent because you are happy or satisfied with the direction and content of the newsletter. If not, please let us know what you would like to read and hear. We all share a common experience, but within that common experience are many, many different stories, please don't keep yours a secret. Even if you don't think you are a writer, let us help you put your story together. Easiest way to do that is to contact Jim Smith at jlsmidiaservices@gmail.com or on his cellphone (810) 338-3015 and tell him your stories.

The Almighty Chief

A Soldier, Airman, Marine and an old Navy Chief were sitting at a bar one night.

The Soldier suddenly stood up and said:

"God told me that when he made the baddest and strongest, he made me"

The Airman then stood up and said:

"God told me when he made the smartest and wisest, he made me"

The Marine stood up and said:

"God told me that when he made the fastest and swiftest, he made me"

The old Navy Chief looked around, finished his drink, and took a long drag off his cigar.

Then he looked at the other servicemen standing around and said in a low growling voice, "I never told y'all any of that crap"

Check out the Cogswell website

If you haven't checked out the USS Cogswell DD-651 Association website do yourself a favor and try it out.

usscogswell.com

George Overman did the association proud with his design of the new website. There are many new features including photos and videos.

You can also see the latest information on reunions and visit and read past newsletters there. Let us know what you think. (And thank George if you get a chance)

Lost in Translation

An old man with hearing problems crashed his car into a very expensive automobile. The owner of the expensive automobile jumps out and confronts the old man and says "Give me \$10,000 cash or I will beat you to a pulp!"

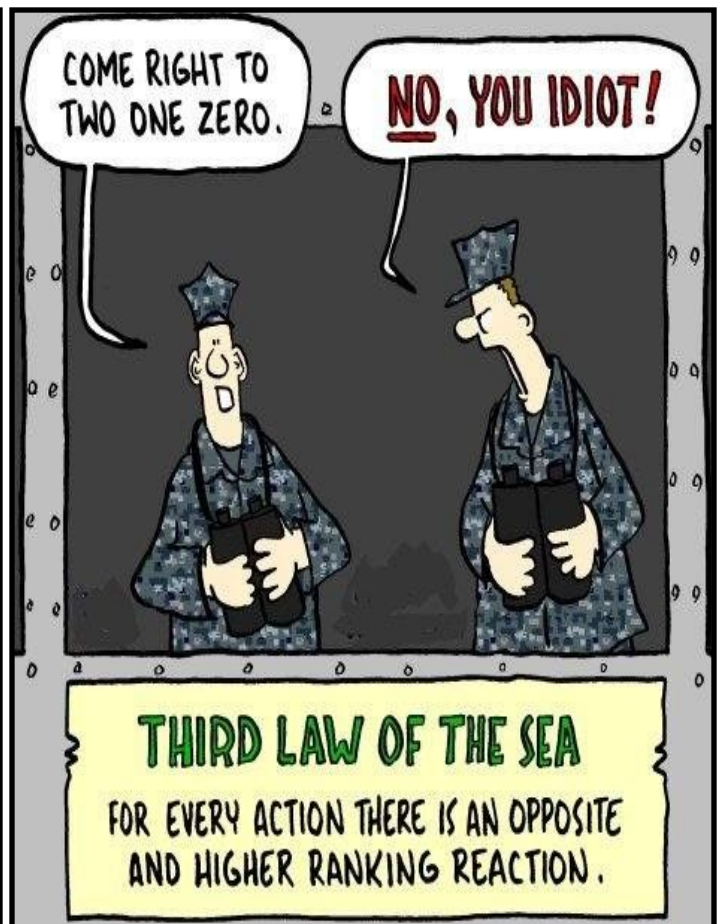
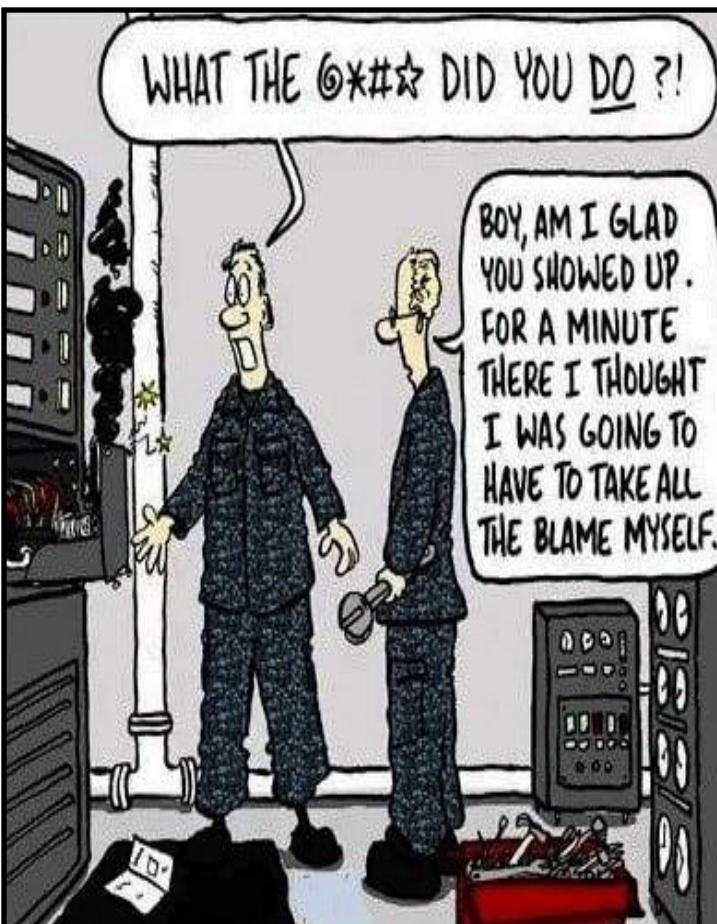
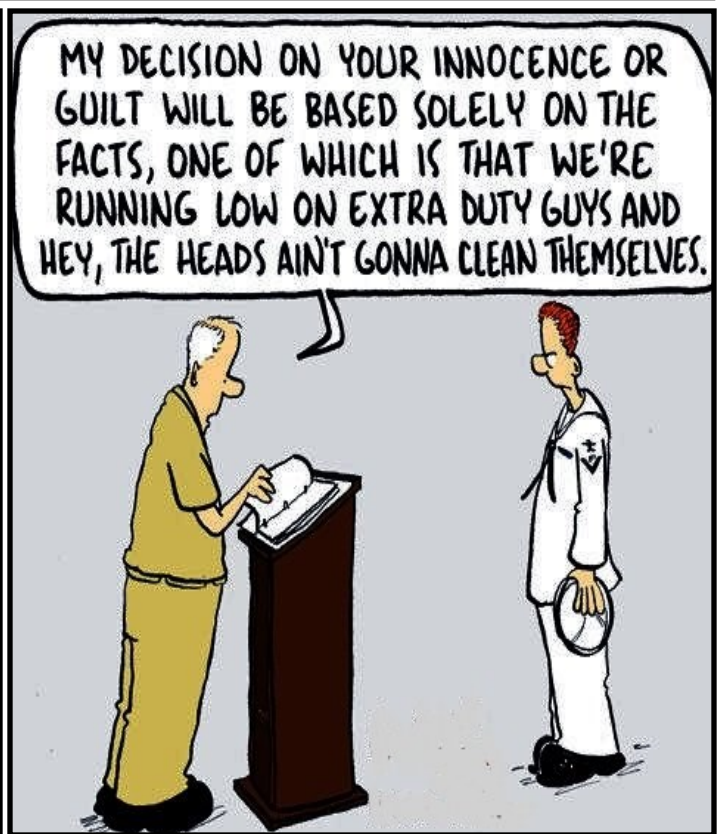
The old man replies, "Woah wait buddy, I don't have that much money but let me call my son, he trains dolphins."

The old man dials his son as he is about to speak the owner of the expensive car yanks the phone out of his hand and says "So you train dolphins, well your old man just hit and damaged my car, you bring me \$10,000 or I'm gonna beat the heck outta him!"

The son answers "Okay, give me 15 minutes and I'll be there." In exactly 15 minutes the son pulls up in a Jeep, Ten men jump out and beat the hell out of the expensive car owner.

Meanwhile the son walks over to his father and says "Dad I train Navy Seals not dolphins"

Time for a laugh



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