



# USS SPRINGFIELD

## Newsletter

<https://usspringfield.org/newsletter.pdf>



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### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

December 2024  
Volume 24 Issue 11

This month's newsletter presented a bit of a challenge as there were no "Sea Stories" to include in this issue. These are desperately needed if you would like to see the newsletter published on a regular basis.

I did have a few phone calls during which some topics were discussed but I honestly could not get enough information to build a story. During one conversation, there was mention of our being involved in the making of a movie. The shipmate thought that Jack Lemon was on board during the shooting of it, but was unable to provide anything more than that.

I do remember hearing that we were involved in the making of the movie "The Longest Day". If anyone has knowledge and can remember things about it, perhaps you can share it. For other stories, perhaps think about telling a child or a friend about something that happened while you were aboard the Springfield, how joining the Navy came about, what you did in your 'spare time', etc.

As far as a reunion for 2025 goes, our current thinking to hold it in September or October in the Philadelphia area with possible tours to Valley Forge National Park, the US Naval Shipyard, the USS New Jersey, Independence Hall & the Liberty Bell, U.S. Mint, Amish Country or other attractions. We are in the early stages of giving thought to it all so your input will be considered. Let us know of your thoughts.

Wishing you a **Merry Christmas**, **Happy Hanakkuh** and **Happy Holidays**  
Dave Schantz-President Keith Rivard-Treasurer & Mario Lombardi-Secretary

### USS SPRINGFIELD MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to new Life Member Daniel Brewer EM2 E Div 69-72

Welcome aboard Annual Member Lt(jg) Henry Batchelder N Div 64-67

Dues are needed for the Bluejackets ongoing expenses. While we are a not-for-profit-all-volunteer organization, we still have expenses to meet in keeping our organization viable. Annual membership is \$20. Life Membership is \$100. Your support is appreciated to the max.

Note: Dues paid now are good through 2025.

Please make your checks payable to: USS Springfield Bluejackets Inc. and mail to: Treasurer Keith Rivard, Treasurer USS Springfield Bluejackets 160 Tommotley Dr Loudon TN 37774-2120 or call 865 388-2478 to charge

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

**DECEMBER** Generoso Balbuena SD2 S-5 Div 65-70, Gary Barnhart CS3 S-2 Div 69-73, Clifford Bergesen EM2 E Div 61-63, William Berlin FTG3 FOX Div 61-63, Allen Butterfass PN3 X Div 62-63, John Ciminski RM2 OR-F2 Div 63-66, Ted Clark FTG3 G Div 61-63, Roy Coleman ET1 OE Div 70-74, Jesse Cook\*\* ET2 OR Div 96-01, Steve Doty\*\* ET3 ET Div 96-00, Richard Fischer SN 3RD Div 61-63, Bruce Harrison BMSA BOAT Div 72-74, Otto Jones DT3 H&D Div 63-65, Cary Lieberman RM3 COMM Div 69-70, Robert Marohn SM2 CS Div 60-62, Richard Miles LT(JG) SUPPLY 64-66, Marshall Peeples LTJG M Div 62-64, William Rastetter GMM3 GM Div 70-72, Donald Smith EM3 E Div 65-67, Frank Swicegood SHSN S-3 Div 62-64, Stephen Toth MM3 M Div 62-64, R. B. Vines BM1 1ST Div 59-60, Charles Volpe SH3 S-3 Div 71-73, Leroy Wolf MM2 M Div 61-61

*Did we miss your birthday? Let us know so we can include it next time.*

### In this Issue

- President's Corner
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- US Navy Christmas
- Ship Store

Please send any additions, corrections or questions to Dave Schantz at the address



or email above

## **US NAVY CHRISTMAS**

US Navy Christmas: Celebrating the Holidays at Sea ( excerpts from an article by Andrew Alex—July 3, 2023

US Navy Christmas – this is a phrase that elicits images of sailors celebrating the holiday season on board their ships, far away from home and loved ones.

The US Navy Christmas a tradition dates back to colonial times and has continued throughout American history, especially during World War II when celebrating Christmas at sea became prevalent. The celebrations involve planning events like dinners, concerts & parties while taking care not to impact operational capabilities adversely. Celebrating Christmas in the US Navy brings together sailors from various backgrounds, faiths, and nationalities to form a unique bond and creates a sense of community within the service while serving as an emotional boost for those spending long periods away from their families due to deployments or training exercises overseas.

As the holiday season approaches, many of us are looking forward to spending time with loved ones, enjoying delicious meals and exchanging gifts. However, for members of the US Navy who are stationed far from home, celebrating Christmas can be a unique experience. The celebrations start several weeks before December 25th when sailors begin preparing for festivities aboard their respective ships or submarines. This process involves planning events like dinners, concerts & parties while taking care not to impact operational capabilities adversely. Onboard any given ship or submarine you may find inflatable Santas adorning various surfaces along with strings of lights hung everywhere possible while crew members wear festive hats & sweaters alike! Ships bake cakes using recipes passed down through generations or serve up hot cocoa topped off with whipped cream – all part & parcel in creating an atmosphere similar to being on land over holidays instead floating amongst waves miles away and may include ceremonial readings (from biblical passages) by the ship’s Chaplain or senior officers followed by carols sung by entire crews gathered together under starry skies atop deck. These moments are something sailors remember for years to come. One of their most popular traditions during this time is decorating ships with festive lights and decorations. This practice began in 1912, when USS North Carolina was decorated with lights for a night-time battle exercise.

Another notable tradition is the annual “General Order No. 11,” which was issued by President Abraham Lincoln on December 24, 1862, allowing Union soldiers to celebrate Christmas day as a day of rest and reflection. The order also encouraged soldiers to attend church services and perform acts of kindness towards one another. In recent years, US Navy sailors have celebrated this holiday season by participating in charitable events such as Toys for Tots programs and volunteering at local shelters or hospitals.

When deployed overseas away from their families during Christmastime, it can be tough for members serving in the United States military – especially those stationed aboard naval vessels- to experience normal holiday activities such as exchanging gifts or eating traditional meals with loved ones. Some bases also organize voluntary food drives, toy collections and other charitable programs during this time of year in support of military families or veterans groups who may be in need over the holiday period. These events help foster a sense of community and goodwill amongst personnel and civilians alike.

The story of “Silent Night” is perhaps one of the most well-known Christmas tales related to US Navy history. In 1914, British and German soldiers called a temporary truce on Christmas Day during World War I, meeting each other between trenches while caroling with various instruments including bagpipes, trumpets etc.

## **SHIP STORE**

On sale in the USS Springfield Ship Store are Coffee Mugs, USS Springfield Window Stickers, Polo Shirts, Ball Caps and more. **Navy caps are now available.** Visit our Ship Store on-line at <https://store16038547.company.site> or [usspringfield.org](https://usspringfield.org) or if you don’t have access to the internet call Keith Rivard (865-388-2478). All proceeds go to support the USS Springfield Bluejackets, Inc. (Also—Please let us know if you are looking for something specific and are unable to find it.) Make checks payable to USS Springfield Bluejackets and mail to:  
Keith Rivard-Treasurer 160 Tommotley Dr Loudon, TN 37774-2120 or to charge, call Keith 865-388-2478

