



USS SPRINGFIELD

Newsletter

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



Officers

President
Dave Schantz
29 Wood Run Cir
Rochester NY 14612-2271
585-723-0760
daveschantz@yahoo.com

Vice President
-Open

Treasurer
Keith Rivard
160 Tommotley Dr
Loudon TN 37774-2120
865-388-2478
kmrivard@gmail.com

Secretary
Mario Lombardi
231 Mitchell G Dr
Tewksbury MA 01876-2184
978-851-4334
lombardi00@aol.com

Webmaster/Newsletter
Dave Schantz
29 Wood Run Cir
Rochester NY 14612-2271
585-723-0760
daveschantz@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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November is a month of many happenings. On November 5th, we get to cast our vote for the next President of the United States and the outcome might very well might determine the future of our country. Please take the time to understand those running for election and be sure to vote.

We celebrate Veterans Day on November 11th, which pays tribute to all American veterans, living or dead, who served their country honorably during war or peacetime. We can all take pride in being among those being honored. "I can imagine no more rewarding a career. And any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: 'I served in the United States Navy.'" *John F. Kennedy*

November 22nd is the 61st anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. I am sure we all remember where we were when this happened Paul Meyer certainly does and shares with us a nice "Sea Story" about where he was and what was going on aboard the Springfield.

...and of course, Thanksgiving. A holiday celebrating the harvest and other blessings of the past year and supposedly modeled on a 1621 harvest feast shared by the English colonists (Pilgrims) of Plymouth and the Wampanoag people. In America, Thanksgiving is particularly rich in legend and symbolism, family gatherings, watching football, and enjoying a traditional Thanksgiving meal which typically includes turkey, bread stuffing, potatoes, cranberries, and pumpkin pie.



Happy Thanksgiving

USS SPRINGFIELD MEMBERSHIP

Welcome aboard Buddy Michael Mears CT2 Flag 63-64 and Alfred Giancotti ETR3 OE Div 72-73

Its always good to reestablish communication with Shipmates we lost track of as addresses, e-mail addresses and phone numbers change without our being notified.

We have lost contact with Jerry McCloskey RD3 OI Div 62-64, Robert Sullivan MM2 M Div 60-62 Donald Birkhimer CS1 S-2 Div 72-73 and Robert Goodson CTO2 FLAG 67-68 if anyone is in touch with them please let us know.

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

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

2024 REUNION BOOKS

For those who attended the 2024 Reunion in Buffalo, Barry L. Probst, President/Treasurer US Sixth Fleet in Villefranche-sur-Mer sent a reminder that we can still order the Reunion Book from Jason Skinner Photography. You can also purchase Portraits, Groups and Candid photos as well. Go to [J. Skinner Photography \(jskinnerphotography.com\)](http://jskinnerphotography.com) to order.

Please order the books as soon as possible so Jason can get the books created and mailed out to everyone. The price of \$35 includes shipping anywhere in the US. Books mailed out of the US please inquire by sending an email to jason@jskinnerphotography.com

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS



NOVEMBER: Sherrill Allen FN A Div 68-69, Emery Beard RM2 FLAG Div 71-73, Philip** Berry DC3 ENG Div 57-57, Robert Berta JO3 X Div 64-67, YNCS R. Callahan YN1 X Div 70-73, Domenick Chiarello EM3 E Div 68-72, MUCM Ken Davenport MU1 STAFF Div 63-67, Robert Faes Jr SK3 S-1 Div 70-72, Joseph Gagne HM2 H&D Div 60-61, Dick Godschalk LTJG OPS Div 60-62, Robert Goodson CTO2 FLAG, COMM Div 67-68, Thomas Gorman GMM3 GM Div 63-66, Thomas Kirejczyk FTM2 F Div 60-63, Luther Langley FN R Div 70-74, Richard Lechthaler LTJG OPS Div 64-66, Stephen Lehigh PN3 X Div 72-74, Louis Lockwood RM3 OR Div 61-63, Peter Long FTG3 G Div 62-67, Eric Mathis** 97-01, Thomas McNally FTM3 FOX Div 66-71, Pete Miller CAPT CO

Div 03-06**, James Miller FTMSN FOX Div 61-63, YNC Donald Nistendirk YN1 FLAG Div 64-66, Robert O'Brien YN2 FLAG Div 70-72, James Paulsen ETC NAV Div 96-98**, Ted Penrod FT3 FOX Div 62-64, Charles Puckhaber ET3 E Div 59-62, Robert L. Reese SN A Div 60-62 (**SSN761 Shipmates)

Did we miss your Birthday? If so, let us know so we can get it next time.

SEA STORIES

Paul Meyer FTM2 Fox Div 62-64 writes -Anyone who was at least 5 years old on Nov 22, 1963, knows exactly where they were on that day, the day President John Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas Texas. I was on board the USS Springfield on the shake down cruise following our yard period in the Brooklyn Navy yards. We left Guantanamo Bay that morning scheduled to arrive Montego Bay the next day.

I lay down in the missile radar control room after lunch to take a short nap. The control rooms were one of very few places that were air conditioned on the ship's way back then. I had just fallen asleep when in comes Carly, one of the crew for that control room, shouting Meyer, Meyer, wake up, the President has just been shot. I was immediately angry because Carly was the kind of guy who would joke about anything, so I shouted Carly don't joke about things like that! Just then the announcement came over the PA system for all the crew to hear the sad news. Wow, what a shock to think that something like that could happen in America.

I was surprised that we continued on and arrived Montego Bay the next day. I remember going over on liberty and being approached by many of the locals telling us how sorry they were as well, and many of them had tears in their eyes. I believe JFK was loved by millions of people around the world.

Three days later we had a memorial service aboard ship at sea. Of course we were all wondering what's going to happen now. Who actually did this heinous crime, and will this lead us into war, thinking most likely it was Russia. Thankfully, the transition of the presidency was smooth, and life went right on.

I was 20 when that happened and now, I'm 81 and I can still see the events of that week like it was yesterday. Below is the sheet of paper handed out to all for the memorial service aboard ship.



U.S.S. SPRINGFIELD (CLG-7)
MONDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 1963
MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO JOHN F. KENNEDY
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
20 JANUARY 1961 - 22 NOVEMBER 1963

Invocation	Chaplain Robinson
Hymn - America	All hands
Remarks	Captain Crenshaw
Prayers	All hands led by Chaplain
Benediction	
Hymn - The Navy Hymn	



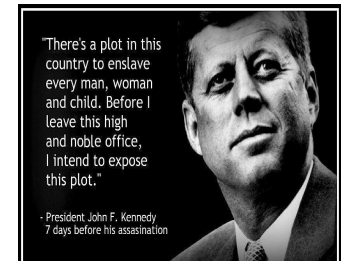
AMERICA

My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountain-side
Let Freedom ring.

Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King. Amen

THE NAVY HYMN

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the
restless wave,
Who biddest the mighty ocean
deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.
Amen



There's a plot in this country to enslave every man, woman and child. Before I leave this high and noble office, I intend to expose this plot.

- President John F. Kennedy
7 days before his assassination

... and Walter Anderson ETN3 OE Div 65-67 writes of *"The Tale of the Three Chief Petty Officers"*

"On the last day of Great Lakes Boot Camp I received my orders to report to the USS Springfield, home ported in Villefranche, France. Let me begin my story from there.

It was during the year of 66 and I think we (USS Springfield, 6th Fleet Flagship) were at port in Naples. I say I think because after all these years it's a blur as to exactly what port but I think it was Naples. Sometimes we would hang out there for a week or so while our 3 star Admiral 6th Fleet Commander took care of his diplomatic duties in the region. He was always entertaining the dignitaries and I guess spreading our goodwill around the region. Often when we were in port and I didn't feel like going ashore so I would go up to the radio transmitter compartment on the upper level - take my Sony reel-to-reel tape recorder with me on which, I had hours of music and stretch out on one of the bench seats, just relaxing and listening to the music. Typically there was no one around so I pretty much had the place to myself.

One day however, (I seem to remember it being a Saturday afternoon I got a bit bored and the thought came to me - why don't I power up one of the WRT-2 transmitters, tune over to one of the amateur radio frequencies (I think it was on the 20 meter ham band) and see if I can make a state-side contact with a ham who might be able to set me up with a phone patch to my girl friend in NJ. After all, I was a legal amateur radio operator with my own call sign. There was little if any radio communication going on while we were in port and the particular transmitter available just happened to be off line for maintenance at the time. So I tweaked up an open frequency and started calling CQ. Within about a minute or so I got a response from a stateside ham that just happened to be able to setup phone patches; how lucky can you get.



I revealed that I was onboard the USS Springfield; I don't recall giving our location however. We established our connection and I gave him the telephone number that I wanted to contact. As luck would have it on this weekend afternoon my future mother-in-law to be answered the phone and when the ham on the other end tried to explain the whole thing she almost passed out with fright not knowing what to say or do. But then she did come around and was able to get my girlfriend on the phone. The ham on the other end had to explain the "protocol"; how this was a one way conversation and you had to say "over" when you were through so the person on the other end could respond and talk. She finally got the hang of it and we were to have a nice lovey-dovey conversation that I think lasted for about ten minutes.

Well - what more can I say. At the end I felt pretty damn good about being able to pull that off. I my girlfriend would have a forever story to tell all her coworkers the next day and my future mother-in-law was ecstatic about the whole event (when she came to) . She thought I was a genius so finally accepted. Everything was just peachy - or so I thought.



talk-
able

knew

I was

Here is where the story gets a bit complicated so please bear with me.

The Chiefs:

Chief #1: A mystery Chief Radioman stationed on another ship in the 6th fleet.

Chief #2: a Chief Radioman (one of 4) in the OR Division on board the USS Springfield and a amateur radio operator.

Chief #3: A Chief Electronic Technician in the OE Division (my Division) on board the USS Springfield.

The chain of events that was about to unravel is beyond anything I could have imagined.

The next weekday as I recall was a normal workday so as always we gathered in the ET shack for the 8am muster. Our Lt. JG did his briefing , the chief said a few words and then we were dismissed; everyone except for me.

"Andy I need you to remain for a bit" said Jim, our First Class ET with the Chief (#3) standing beside him. "Oh, what's up Jim" I said. The Chief jumped in and went on to say that over the weekend he was contacted by another Chief (Chief #2) , and that this Chief, who also was a ham operator, had been contacted by yet still another Chief Radioman (Chief #1) who just happened to pickup the tail-end of a radio communication that Sunday. He noted the time and radio frequency of the transmission. He also just happened to hear the Springfield mentioned. Now he knew that the Springfield was in port and that bothered him a bit. Apparently he wasn't able to catch the entire call sign but he thought the part that he did hear sounded like the call sign for another amateur buddy of his - that being Chief #2 on board the USS Springfield. (Apparently, these guys were acquainted as it often happens among ham radio operators. That of course bothered and since we were in port and that was a NO NO, he decided to reach out to his buddy Chief #2, tell him about this radio transmission that the call sign that he thought he heard sounded very much like the Chief 2's call sign.

So now, having gotten this news, our on-board Chief RM (#2) is pissed off, thinking that someone on the Springfield is using HIS amateur radio call sign and transmitting from the ship while she is in port. So he decides to investigate the radio logs for the day of the event and finds nothing. Still confused he decides to have a chat with some of the other Radiomen that had duty that Sunday and thinking maybe they may have noticed something going on. So I guess one of them mentioned that they happened to see me working on WRT#2 (the HF transmitter I was using) and with that information he decides to reach out to Chief #3, the Chief ET in our group, and see if he knows anything and who was this particular ET guy spotted that Sunday working on the WRT#2 transmitter.

Now since Chief #3 (our ET division) knows that the WRT#2 transmitter is under my maintenance responsibility so he tells Chief #2 that he'll look into the matter and get back to him, which now brings us up to that fateful Monday morning muster in the ET shack.

So here I am, at Monday morning muster, 3 chiefs later and being questioned about a radio transmission that I made that previous Sunday while we were docked in port. I could feel the pit growing in my stomach with visions of standing at a Captains Mast and spending the rest of my ship days in the brig and being marched to chow by two marine guards with my hat draped shamefully down over my head.

Right at that moment my brain started grinding out all sorts of scenarios. If I lie and deny the whole matter there will be a further investigation and the truth bound to come out. Holy shit; I might even get court marshaled and go to federal prison. So I decided the best thing to do was confess up the entire matter with a strong emphasis that I did NOT use Chief #2 amateur call sign; I used my own.

With that said, Jim (our First Class) looks at me and says: "I think the best thing you can do is go see Chief #2 and explain to him what happened and that you did NOT use his call sign". Suddenly that sounded like a pretty good idea. After all that was what he seemed to be the most pissed about. So if I could just convince him that my call sign sounded similar to his then maybe, just maybe... So off I went, story in hand, and talked with the Chief. Case closed. The less said the better. Suffice to say that the Admiral in command the 6th fleet or the ship's Captain, do not want to be embarrassed by an unfortunate event happening on their ship. Yours truly, Walter Anderson

1960 THANKSGIVING MENU



Best wishes for a happy Thanksgiving to all the folks in home. wherever they may be to all and sundry of us of the United States of America
FRANCIS D. BOYLE
CAPTAIN U. S. NAVY
Commanding Officer
T. O. LABOR III
CHIEF U. S. NAVY
Executive Officer
L. W. REESE
LIEUTENANT COMMANDER U. S. NAVY
Supply Officer
E. H. BEAL
R. G. BIERMAN
CHIEF U. S. NAVY
CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER
THANKSGIVING PRAYER
Almighty God, our heavenly Father whose mercies are without number. Thy gifts are not few and not far between. May the mutual love and kindness bind us together in Thanksgiving. We thank Thee for an honorable peace among the nations and the opportunity of appointing our Country in the Armed Forces.
H. A. McNEILL
CHAPLAIN U. S. NAVY

Thanksgiving Day Menu

24 NOVEMBER 1960



SHRIMP COCKTAIL

- CREAM OF TOMATO SOUP CRACKERS
- PICKLES CHEESE STUFFED CELERY OLIVES
- ROAST TOM TURKEY CRANBERRY SAUCE
- SAGE DRESSING GIBLET GRAVY
- VIRGINIA BAKED HAM RAISIN SAUCE
- MASHED SWEET POTATOES MASHED IRISH POTATOES
- BUTTERED WHOLE CORN BUTTERED PEAS
- SLICED TOMATOES CRISP LETTUCE
- FRENCH DRESSING SALAD DRESSINGS
- POPPYSEED ROLLS BUTTER
- PUMPKIN PIE WITH WHIPPED CREAM FRUIT CAKE
- CHILLED FRESH MILK COFFEE
- ASSORTED CANDIES MIXED NUTS
- AFTER DINNER MINTS
- CIGARS CIGARETTES

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. Yes, the price has gone up, but we do sell at close to our cost.) Visit our Ship Store on-line at <https://store16038547.company.site> or 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 London, TN 37774 To charge, call Keith 865-388-2478

