

DECEMBER  
2017

# THE BLACKBIRD

## USS POWER DD-839 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

**USS POWER WEB SITE**  
**www.usspowerdd839.org**

**Newsletter Founder Editor**  
**PETER DEPIETRO**  
**2008 - 2013**

SHIPS MOTTO  
THE FLEET'S FINEST



### PRESIDENTS NOTES

This will be my last message as President of The USS Power Association. I want to thank the officers and staff for all of the support shown to me over these past three years and I know that you will show the same support to our new President, Ed Chartrand.

I also want to say "Thank You" to John and Kay for all of their hard work in setting up the reunions and making sure that they run so smoothly each year. A JOB WELL DONE!!! Also, I want to thank Mary Lou for all she has done as the Chairperson for the USS Power Ladies Auxiliary. Thank You!!!

Linda and I have enjoyed our years of attending these reunions (with the first being in Charleston, SC, in 1997) and we will always cherish the many friendships we have made over the years. Each year we look forward with great anticipation and excitement of seeing old friends and making new ones. So come join us in Portland, Maine in June, 2018, and enjoy the fun and friendships of many of those of us who have served in the US Navy and aboard the USS Power at one time. Your families and friends are welcome to share in this wonderful experience.

Wishing you all a very happy and safe Holiday Season and looking forward to seeing you all in Maine.  
To Quote Charles Schulz "All you need is **love**, but a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt".

God Bless you all  
Carl P. Burnham, President  
USS POWER ((DD839) ASSOCIATION  
9185 Ogden Street  
Omaha, NE 68134-1853  
carl.burnham@cox.net

**2017**

### **USS POWER DD 839 OFFICERS**

President- Carl Burnham  
Sr. Vice President - Ed Chartrand  
Jr. Vice President - John Goricki  
Secretary - Bob Pulaski  
Treasurer - Jim Brocklebank  
Chairman - John S. Pinto

### **STAFF:**

Master-At-Arms - Eric Barnes  
Storekeeper - Jim Brocklebank  
Chaplain - Michael Farrens  
Webmaster - William Kirsch  
Newsletter— John Pinto

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**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT NOTES:**

GREETINGS FELLOW SHIPMATES AND POWERFUL LADIES.....

Portland was named for the English Isle of Portland. The Algonquian Indians who inhabited the peninsula called it Machigonne which means "great neck". Portland is our next reunion site, hope all are making plans to attend. The summer months are in the rear view mirror, fall is here and winter is closing in fast.

Once again I was privileged and able to participate in our hometown Veteran's Day celebrations with my V.F.W. color guard and 4 other posts. We honored our Vet's with a lying of a wreath, rifle volley and playing of military music by our award winning American Legion Band. The weather for that morning was 28 degrees. Thank God for the warm feeling you get by volunteering. Please support your local American Legions and V.F.W.'s our reunion is more than 6 months away but already I'm anticipating a great time, how could you miss?

As usual we are always trying to increase our membership, if you can't recruit a shipmate invite a friend or relative to our reunion. Don't forget the 87th. Annual football game of Navy vs. Army Sat. Dec. 9th. Cheer on the Navy ship men over the Army Black Knights.

Sr. Vice President, Ed Chartrand

**PRAYER OF SUPPORT FOR OUR TROOPS**

**Those who hold the flag of liberty  
Have solemn work today  
May their jobs end swiftly  
And the Lord speed them safely home.**

**JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT**

Ahoy Shipmates,

Can you believe how quickly the time passes? It seems like just yesterday that we attended our reunion in Columbus, Ga., while our next one in Portland, Maine is rapidly approaching. As I've said before, I think this one will have a greater turnout than usual and I am personally looking forward to seeing many new or lapsed attendees there. Of course much of this anticipated increase in attendance will depend upon the cooperation of all. Remember, please try to contact 2 or 3 shipmates that you know have not attended a recent reunion and implore them to attend. Perhaps you can take out some of our old reunion photos, pick out some faces, give them a call and convince them to attend. Remember, along with our great camaraderie there is also great lobster in Portland, just waiting to be eaten.

On a personal note, John Pinto and I along with Kay and Julia of course crossed the pond once again. We had a wonderful time in Barcelona and cruised back to Tampa. Who doesn't remember Barcelona? It certainly brings back fond memories for me.

For those of you interested in SHAD there appears to be some little light at the end of the tunnel. Congressman Thompson has introduced a provision in the Defense budget bill called the Jack Alderson Toxic Exposure Declassification Act., H.R. 3327 Here is a link to the information, I hope it helps. <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/hr3327>;

I am hoping that you all have good health and will have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

John Goricki



FROM THE DESK OF THE  
SECRETARY



Shipmates & Family :

Fortunately our reunion went off without a hitch with the weather. Then the bottom fell out. Forest fires, Tornadoes, Hurricane & Flooding throughout the U.S. hopefully you all survived with little or no damage. Soon the Holidays will be here, family and friends, parties, dinners, Santa with gifts for all. A very joyous time of the year of course it's also another year coming for dues. If you can . Please send in that \$20.00 ( NO INCREASE IN 23 YEARS) and that is one payment you will not have to think about when all the other ones come in after the 1st of the year.

And so to All

A Very Merry & Healthy & Joyous Christmas and Happy New Year.  
Bob Pulaski  
SECTY.

## USS POWER DD 839 \*POWERFUL\* LADIES\* AUXILIARY\*

### CHAIRWOMAN

Mary Lou Chartrand  
edandlou27@sbcglobal.net  
815-744-3978

### SECRETARY

Julia Goricki  
goricjul@aol.com  
803-397-9800

USS POWERFUL LADIES .....

Once again the holidays are upon us. Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy 2018 New Year. Remember the reason for the season.

Happy Belated Veteran's Day to USS Power Shipmates!

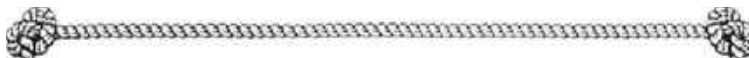
Our theme at our next reunion in Portland, Maine is **Navy** attire which should be easy to come up with. We will have sailors from another ship to join us at our reunion, let's show them a good time. USS Power shipmates please call, write or e mail your fellow shipmates and tell them what a great organization and fun we have with the USS Power Association and invite them to the reunion. Support your local VFW's and American Legions. Thank a Vet everyday! See you in Maine.

Mary Lou Chartrand, Chairwomen

edandlou27@sbcglobal.net



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Welcome Shipmates, Guest & Family Members:

Our 2018 Reunion will be held in Portland Maine June 24-28, 2018 4-nights at the Best Western Merry Manor Inn. We will be joined by 10 shipmates & guest of the USS SHANNON DM-25 & USS Fraser DM 24 a WW II Destroyer Minelayer more info is posted on the website. The tours are completed see the function form attached with tour info and prices, The deadline to return your form with your check & selection is March 15, 2018. You can send it in earlier and would give us a heads Up of the numbers to do the Tours, we generally return monies back if you have too cancel minus the \$ 15.00 registration fee. Last minuet cancellation after tours are paid for sometimes we can not refund. Check out the websites for more detailed info on tours .**Tour one** to Bath Maine is Handicap accessible **Tour Two** Trolley tour which is done by the Hotel. Don the sales manager will assist with picking up scooters and wheel chairs & taking them to Old Town where the trolley will drop your off, and assist when boarding the Cruise part of tour .The trolley will pick us up and back to the hotel & pick up your scooters & wheel chair. I hope this answers any question on the tour and gives you a choice to go. **When you fill out your function form don't forget to send in your 2018 dues even if you can't attend pay your dues and help support your fellow shipmates, update your mailing address, support your association.** If anyone knows of any shipmate passing since our last reunion in Columbus, Georgia please send me the info so I can get it to the Chaplain Mike Farrens. Anyone who is ill or unable to come to the reunion we would like to know so that they are not forgotten and mentioned at our next reunion. If you have a way to advertise the reunion please do so and add me to the contact person the more circulation we send out the more new members sign up and will come to the reunion. Bring your friends, family and wear your Power cap when out and about. If you haven't sent your Questionnaire form in yet send it in now so we can get a more accurate number of people attending. You can print a copy if you lost the one inserted with your August newsletter from the website. Mary Lou & her crew will be holding **BINGO** as usual after our Sword Cutting Ceremony at the Welcome Aboard. The Hospitality Room will be open for complimentary Soda, Water & snacks which will be supplied by the Association. Liquor, Beer & Wine will be hosted by the Hotel at discounted rates. At the Banquet dinner we will have a speaker from the USS SHANNON talk about the Bath Maine Shipyard and some history of the Shannon and the new ships of today. We will have some music, raffles and we will try **Karaoke**, send me in you songs and I will try and get it together

Have a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year  
Stay Well Looking Forward to seeing you at the Reunion

John S. Pinto  
Chairman

Our 2019 Reunion will be in St Louis, MO. and looking at October more info will be posted on the website and in the upcoming Newsletter. We have a tour committee set up and Debbie Weaver & Mary Lou Chartrand will be looking into tours of interest. ( We are looking for volunteers to start a data base of shipmates who served aboard in the 50's-60's-70's to come join us at our reunions.)

**Welcome to our New USS POWER DD 839 OFFICERS  
Takes effect Jan. 1, 2018**

**Officers :**

President: Ed Chartrand  
Sr. Vice President: John Goricki  
Jr. Vice President: Michael Farrens  
Secretary - Bob Pulaski  
Treasurer - Jim Brocklebank  
Chairman - John S. Pinto  
Past President: Carl P. Burnham

**Staff :**

Master-At-Arms: Jack VanDervender  
Storekeeper: Jim Brocklebank  
Chaplain : Michael Farrens  
Webmaster : William Kirsch  
Newsletter: John Pinto

USS Power DD-839 Website  
<http://www.usspowerdd839.org>

Website Update for December

As mentioned in previous newsletters there is a statistics collection section that can tell us more information on how our web site is being used, here are some statistics from the internet traffic that took place on our web site in October. The top four browsers that are looking at our web site are Safari, Mozilla, Foxfire and MS Internet Explorer. Of the 1720 number of visits the average visit time is between 0-30s this accounted for 1238 visits which amounted to 71.9 percent of the time.

<b>Reported period</b>	Month Oct 2017				
<b>First visit</b>	01 Oct 2017 - 00:01				
<b>Last visit</b>	31 Oct 2017 - 23:31				
	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Viewed traffic *	<b>778</b>	<b>1720</b> (2.21 visits/visitor)	<b>4343</b> (2.52 Pages/Visit)	<b>7596</b> (4.41 Hits/Visit)	<b>719.12 MB</b> (428.12 KB/Visit)

Definition of term:

- Unique visitor – Number of client hosts (IP address) who came to visit the site
- (and who visited at least one page)
- Number of visits – A new visitor is defined as each new incoming visitor( viewing or browsing a page)
- Pages- Number of times a page of the site is viewed (sum of all visitors for all visits). This piece of data differs from "Hits" in that it counts only HTML pages as opposed to images and other files.
- Hits- Number of times a page, image, and file of the site in viewed or downloaded by someone.

Also there is a Facebook link feature on the [www.usspowerdd839.org](http://www.usspowerdd839.org) website that will connect you to the USS Power Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/251397985047>. You will need to establish a Facebook account to join if you do not already have one. Currently there are sixty members on the group site. Check out both sites. Remember you are free to post on the facebook page your own subject matter that relates to the USS Power at any time. Contact your webmaster Bill Kirsch at [bkvr52@centurylink.net](mailto:bkvr52@centurylink.net). if you have any suggestions or comments. Hopefully all are planning for Portland Maine 2018 ships reunion ask a friend or family member to come along and enjoy the good company and great Lobster!

Webmaster  
 Bill Kirsch

**STOREKEEPER & TREASURER REPORT**

**JIM BROCKLEBANK, Treasure /Storekeeper**  
**E-MAIL: [JB3536@YAHOO.COM](mailto:JB3536@YAHOO.COM)**  
**PHONE: (205) 758-2725**  
**LOT'S OF ITEMS FOR SALE ! GO TO:**  
**[WWW.USSPOWERDD839.ORG](http://WWW.USSPOWERDD839.ORG)**  
**[WWW.USSPOWERDD839.COM](http://WWW.USSPOWERDD839.COM)**



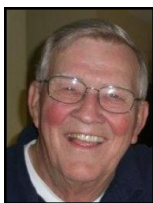
**Jim's New Truck Ford F150-V8 All the Bells & Whistles**

**Report :**

**We have \$5,157.00 in checking account at present time. More dues checks starting to come in. Remember that dues are payable by end of December 2017 for 2018. Happy Holidays to all shipmates.**

**Jim**

**A Note From  
The Classon Home  
Article 6**



Composed, Edited, and Written by  
H. Bernie. Classon Jr  
On 29 January, 1952 while serving As a Radar man  
board the USS Power DD839 during a lull in NATO  
fleet Exercises off the Coast of Greenland.

**" My Wife"**

**Far across the briny sea  
There's a girl named Georgia Lee,  
A girl that's hard for anyone to match,  
A girl that I was lucky to catch.**

**From comer to comer in this world of ours  
I've traveled and seen many foreign flowers.  
But, in all my wandering in years numbering four,  
I've never seen a girl like the one I adore.**

**She has style and rhythm in her talk.  
She has grace and poise in her walk.  
She cooks like a master and dresses like a queen.  
She is truly the finest girl that I have seen.**

**I wouldn't trade her for fortune or fame.  
I wouldn't trade her for another dame.  
I love every bit of her five foot seven.  
I love every bit of my angel from Heaven.**

**I've pulled some boners in my 21 years.  
I've even caused her many, many tears.  
But, in the future, which I hope will be long,  
I'll make up to her for all of my wrong.**

**When winter winds whistle through house and tree,  
I'll keep her warm as warm as can be.  
And when summer sun scorches our earth,  
I'll keep her cool with song and mirth.**

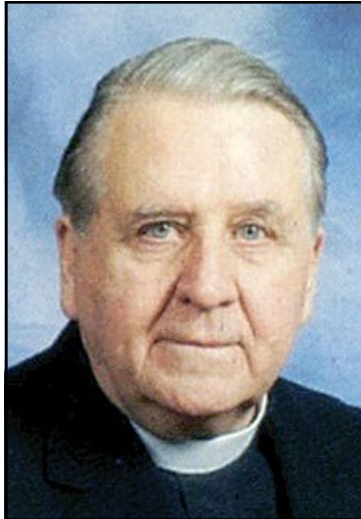
**Yes, truly she is the light of my life,  
Glad I am that she is my wife.  
She'll be happy as years come and go,  
All because I love her so.**

**Written by H. B. Classon, Jr.  
27 October, 1952 while anchored  
off Cannes, France aboard the  
USS Power DD839.**

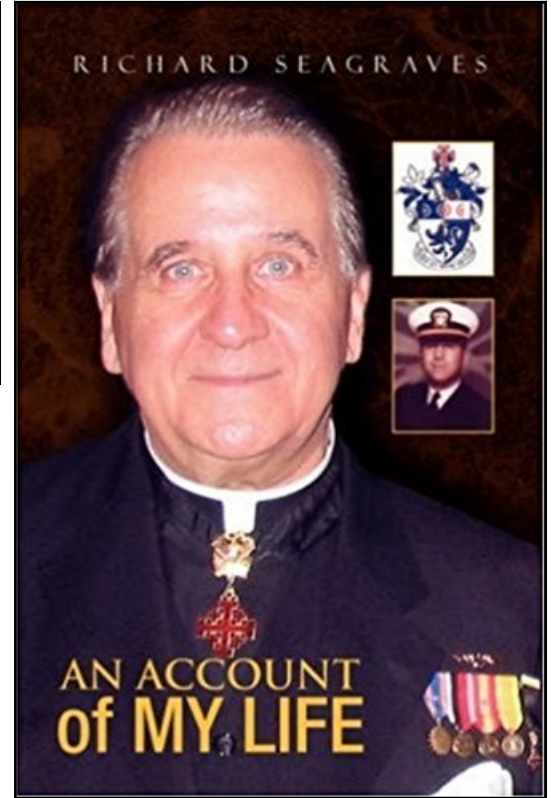


Retirements, Senior Appointments Announced for Priests

Father Richard Seagraves, senior priest at St. Patrick's Cathedral



Father Richard Seagraves  
Served aboard the USS POWER DD 839  
From 5/54 to 7/55 as a LTJG



Chicago, IL. Reunion 2012



Shipmates who served with Father Rich  
Bob Pulaski Fr. Rich Bernie Classon

Father Richard Seagraves :

Had been a parochial vicar at St. Patrick's Cathedral since 2004 and senior priest there since 2009. He was a parochial vicar at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scarsdale, 1999-2004; St. Eugene's, Yonkers, 1997-1999; Sacred Heart, Hartsdale, 1994-1997; and Notre Dame, Manhattan, 1993-1994. Born in Georgia, he served in the U.S. Navy in Vietnam and taught at several colleges and universities. He entered the Cistercian Order in Switzerland in 1983 and was ordained in Austria in 1991. He was incardinated into the archdiocese in 1997.

**USS POWER DD 839 ASSOCIATION  
JOHN S. PINTO  
P.O. BOX 640813  
BEVERLY HILLS, FL. 34464**



**THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

In Memory of  
DUANE C. ( Dewey ) RAY  
Deceased: October 6, 2015

Hello shipmates:

I just had another birthday on October 27th, and it makes me think about how long ago we served our country on the USS Power DD 839. I have fond memories of those who I served with and those who served before and after me. I hope if you are able, that you come to Portland Maine 2018 Reunion next June 24-28, 2018 at the Merry Manor Inn. The tours will be interesting, and getting together to share good times and memories is priceless. I don't know how many more reunions God will let me attend, but I plan to bring my daughter and possibly my grandchildren. So mark your calendar and join me. Please let me know if you hear of anyone that's ill or needs prayer for any reason.

Thank you,  
Michael K. Farrens,  
VP/Chaplain,  
386.265.1645 or mandcfarrens@gmail.com



Michael K. Farrens, Chaplain  
4 Ocean Side Drive, Ormond Beach, FL 32176

