

# *Cortron Courier*

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Dear Shipmates,

This will be the first newsletter. More on that later.

Dear Shipmates,

What a reunion! I think I cried for the first 500 miles after leaving Albany. There we were, 40, 50, and 60 years later after discharge. We were bald-headed, gray-headed, fat, skinny, out of uniform, but you all took me back to my youth even if we had just met for the first time. One thing came out of it all. We were indeed shipmates! For those of you who missed, you did just that, you missed! I am sorry it didn't last a full week. I can't remember any time since my youngest son was born that I felt so good. I think John Kennedy was right on the ball when he said, (And I paraphrase)

"If anyone asks what you did in this century to make your life worthwhile, you can say with a great deal of pride - - - I served in the United States Navy!" (What he didn't say was: It takes a Destroyer Escort to make a real sailor!)

I am terribly proud of my service aboard Destroyers, but I really puff up when I say that I served aboard a DE!

Dear Shipmates,

During our reunion we took up a collection to donate to the USS Slater. We collected \$230.00. I still have it. Now, I am glad I do because I would like to expand what we started. Joe Jordan tells me that he alone donated \$100.00 while we were there, and was given credit for \$75.00 because his first \$25.00 was used as a membership fee. I have no problem with that as all of the funds goes to the same place. Now I will do as all of you ask. I can go ahead and submit this money as originally intended or I can take up a fund to donate in our name just as a church building fund might do as an on-going project. I would like to send a much larger amount just as the snow melts in Albany next spring. That is when they really need the money to recover from the harsh winter that Albany has to offer.

Our turn out was great for a first time, but we do have about four times that amount on our roster. We now have 45 on our roster. What I propose is to have all of you send what you can, when you can. Each month I will post the donation. and the accumulated total. I am going to start with \$100.00 this month. I see no problem of collecting as much as \$5,000.00 by the first of May. I propose to donate this in the name of CORTRON 2002 with the name of our ships just underneath. So far it is USS Tills and USS McClelland DE 750. We still have the Weeden, Wileman, and Roberts.

I don't know if our donations will be tax deductible, but I can ask Tim Rizzuto. Anybody that wants a receipt will get one. All of you were more than generous when I asked for financial help, and I am sure we can do better than what we have. I think the \$230.00 was a great start, but I think we can do much better. Guys this is our past and our legacy to future generations. If any of you have a problem with this proposal please don't hesitate. Sound off! I would rather donate more as to establish an organization with Membership fees and dues.

Dear Shipmates,

It only costs us time and imagination to compose a Newsletter and maybe even come up with a patch. The people who made up our ballcaps can make us a beautiful patch for little money. I will take any ideas you may have for a design. If several are suggested a vote will be taken. In the meantime I will donate the initial cost for 50 patches. Any proceeds beyond the cost will go to the following year's cost for that year's host. All of you that did order a hat got it at cost plus S/H. From now on there will be an added cost of \$5.00 and those funds will also go to next year's host to offset costs. They also make beautiful T-shirts and jackets. What their cost is I will have to ask. Anybody with any ideas spit 'em out. I want to hear what you have to think. This is my idea and you may not agree with me. So let's hear it. This is your first Newsletter and I will try to have at least one topic once a month by the 10th of each month. I will take articles, jokes, editorials, suggestions, etc. When you do send something for the paper tell me that you want it in the paper.

You may even write about political opinions of your own. Got a shipmate you would like to commend or make tribute to? This is the place. Joe Jordan and I are on the opposite ends of the political spectrum in this country, and he and I have bantered back and forth for almost two years. I consider him as one of my best friends, and I have the greatest respect for his opinions. (Even if he is wrong. LOL) Now I have the ball rolling how about some help.

Remember everything I say is not chiseled in granite. I am open to suggestions and criticism. You may fire when ready Gridley!

Your Shipmate, Ed Arnold

An Irishman moves to the USA and finally attends his first baseball game. The first batter approached the batters' box, took a few swings, then hits a double. Everyone was on their feet screaming, "RUN! RUN!"

The next batter hits a single and the Irishman listened as the crowd again cheered, "RUN, RUN!"

The Irishman enjoyed the game and began screaming with the fans. "RUN, RUN!"

The fifth batter came up and four balls went by. The umpire called "WALK" and the batter started his slow trot to first base. The Irishman stood up and screamed, "R-R-RUN ye lazy bastard, RUN!" The people around him began laughing. Embarrassed, the Irishman sat back down.

A friendly fan noted the man's embarrassment, leaned over and explained, "He can't run -- he's got four balls."

The Irishman stood up and screamed, "WALK WITH PRIDE LAD, HOLD YOUR HEAD HIGH!"

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