

# USS SHIELDS DD-596 All Eras Reunion Association

## Newsletter July 2011

Jene Cain, Editor – Jim Dorough, Assistant Editor

**This Newsletter Sent to 1008 Former Crew Members, Families & Guests**

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<http://www.dd596.com>

### Launching Ceremony, 25 September 1944



The keel of the destroyer, Shields, was laid on 10 August 1943 at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton Washington. Sponsored by First Lieutenant Margaret Shields Farr, WAC, the great-granddaughter of Purser Shields, the destroyer was launched on 25 September 1944 and commissioned on 8 February 1945, Commander George B. Madden, USN, in command.

All Eras 2011 Reunion  
September 4<sup>th</sup> through the 8<sup>th</sup>



### 8 September 1945

#### Note from the Plan of the Day

“Tomorrow morning we will take a Japanese pilot aboard. The schedule of operations follows: We will rendezvous with Transport Force tonight, escort them to the mouth of the river, and when directed will proceed up the river to Jinsen. First troops go ashore at 1500. All hands should be particularly alert to sight suicide boats, suicide swimmers at night. Learn how to notify the O.O.D. who will be on the bridge when such sightings are made. If all goes according to plan we will probably be at anchor for a period of about 48 hours.”

Ed. Note: The Japanese had surrendered on August 14<sup>th</sup> and SHIELDS had left Okinawa to be the first ship to enter Jinsen Bay, Korea to land Allied occupation troops after having to navigate through heavy mine fields to secure the area from the Japanese occupation troops.



Portside view of the USS Shields taken sometime during WWII.

## Board Members Contact Info.

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**Editor's Note: Please keep your contact information up to date by getting in touch with Jim Dorough above. If e-mailing please include DD-596 in the subject line.**



## Recently Passed Shipmates

**Editor's Note:** Please contact **Jim Dorough** to notify us if a shipmate has passed away. His contact information is in the column to the left. If e-mailing please include DD-596 in the subject line.

The below deceased were identified through letters and phone calls from the family, returned letters marked deceased and research.

Chastain, Bobby J., SN, 50-51  
Elliott, Donald G., BTFN, 59-60  
Orth, Clyde F., PN2, 51-55  
Saunders, Johnnie A., BTFN, 52-54



## New Found Shipmates

Whitson, Charles E., ICFN, 62-63

## Eldest Living Shipmates

Below is a list prepared by Jim Dorough of the 10 eldest living officers and enlisted shipmates. If Jim missed you, please contact him with your birth date.

### Officers

#### New addition in bold face type

Schweizer, Jack R., CDR, 49-50, 08/27/1915  
McDaniel, George T., LCDR, 45, 05/21/1916  
Hoblitzell, Paul C., LTJG, 44-45 11/24/1916  
Teeters, David R., LT, 49-50, 04-11-1918  
Metze, George M., LCDR, 52-54, 09/15/1918  
Fredell, Erling W., LT, 49, 12/01/1918  
Goodell, Trenor F., ENS, 44-45, 12/29/1918  
Wessel, Robert L., CPTN, 61-63, 06/20/1919  
Baldwin, Richard L., LT, 44-45, 11/10/1919  
Parr, Harold S., LT, 58-59, 09/05/1921

### Enlisted

#### New addition in bold face type

Reeves, Edgar C., RM3, 45-46, 12/02/1919  
Reifsnnyder, Robert A., FC3, 44-45, 05/21/1920  
Kowaliski, Arthur A., BMC, 52-55, 09/08/1920  
Field, Raymond W., FC3, 44-45, 11/25/1920  
Hendrickson, Jack M., MM2, 45-46, 10/11/1921  
Purdy, William V., WT1, 45-46, 11/27/1921  
Grandjean, James J., QM2, 50-52, 12/11/1921  
Dotson, Ernest E., BTC, 50, 01/17/1922  
Conroy, John J., BM1, 44-46, 04/22/1922  
McNeese, Charles L., QM2, 51-54, 04/25/1922

## PRESIDENTS' COLUMN

*By Jack Blann*

This September our Reunion Association will gather in San Antonio Texas to honor those shipmates who served in SHIELDS during World War II. We are fortunate to be in contact with 55 of those veterans and we hope that some, if not all, will be able to join us in our dedication and memorial service at the National Museum of the Pacific War.

As I have gone through the photos and documents of SHIELDS service in that era I have come to better appreciate the perils that these men endured. The constant probability of air attacks, vulnerability from Japanese submarines, navigating through mine fields and the threat of typhoons were real and present dangers. While those of us who were too young to serve still remember gas rationing, blackout curtains in our windows, collecting bacon grease and crushing tin cans for the war effort, these men put their lives on the line for our country.

SHIELDS WWII veterans, we salute you and thank you for your service. You started the illustrious career of our ship and we hope that we that followed were able to make you proud of our service and accomplishments.

Our reunion in San Antonio will not only honor our WWII vets but it will be a time to renew old friendships with shipmates from all eras. Our meetings are casual and generally unstructured with plenty of free time to visit with shipmates and swap those infamous sea stories that grow wilder with each passing year. Optional tours are offered to those who like to explore the local surroundings. You'll have fun and we will enjoy your company.

Our reunion hospitality room and other expenses are funded in part by our annual raffle at the reunion. Raffle contributions are appreciated and should be brought to the reunion event.

## USS Shields DD-596 Reunion Association Notice of Annual Meeting

Time & Date: 9:00 a.m., Sept 7, 2011

Place: Hospitality Room,  
Emily Morgan Hotel  
San Antonio, TX

Purpose of the meeting is the election of Board members, changes to section 8 of the Association By-laws, and any other business that may be brought before the Board.

Shipmates do not have to be reunion registrants to attend and vote however they must have paid 2011 dues.



Shipmates to volunteer for a position on the Association Board of

Directors who are willing to place their names in nomination to be voted on at the upcoming members meeting. No experience necessary however you should have a PC, internet access and be computer literate. Contact Jack Blann at (928) 838-2087 or e-mail at [jblann39@hotmail.com](mailto:jblann39@hotmail.com).

Shipmate(s) to volunteer to be a Reunion Coordinator for the Associations 2012 Reunion. Site to be determined. Contact Jack Blann at (928) 838-2087 or e-mail [jblann39@hotmail.com](mailto:jblann39@hotmail.com).



Raffle items at the Branson, 2010 Reunion



## USS Shields 2011 San Antonio Reunion Itinerary

September 4th – 8th 2011

**LOCATION:**

EMILY MORGAN HOTEL

705 East Houston Street - San Antonio, Texas 78205

Phone: 210-225-5100 - Toll Free: 1-800-824-6674 - FAX: 210-225-7227

E-mail: askemily@emilymorganhotel.com

Room rates have been set at \$89.00 per night plus 16.75 % tax. This rate is in effect for two days before and two days after the scheduled reunion, based on availability. You are responsible for making your own hotel reservations. A block of rooms have been reserved for our reunion. Make sure you indicate USS SHIELDS DD-596 REUNION when you make reservations, this will assure you the discounted rate. Final date to make reservations and still be guaranteed this rate is August 5th 2011. Parking is available for \$18.00 plus 8% tax a day with in/out privileges. WIFI is available at the hotel for \$9.95 plus 8% tax for your entire stay.

Taxi service is available from the airport to the Emily Morgan Hotel for about \$20 each way.

Reunion registration and banquet is \$95.00 per person [not including hotel and tours] to cover the banquet plus miscellaneous expenses i.e. equipment rental, ID cards, printing/postage etc.

The following group activities are being offered:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Register in Hospitality Room  4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Cash Bar in Hospitality Room	9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Tour to the National Museum of the Pacific War (Nimitz Museum) and the town of Fredericksburg. USS SHIELDS WWII Memorial Wall Plaque dedication. Lunch included.  4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Cash Bar in Hospitality Room	9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Highlights of San Antonio tour to include the Alamo, Mission Concepcion, the River Ride, Japanese Sunken Gardens, Texas Ranger Museum and El Mercado Mexican marketplace. Lunch not included.  4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Cash Bar in Hospitality Room	9:00am Business Meeting  Free Day  4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Cash Bar in Hospitality Room  7:00 p.m. Final evening banquet at Hotel	Farewell and Departure

**USS SHIELDS DD-596**  
**2011 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM**  
**SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, SEPTEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 4th  
REGISTRATION AND  
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>  
BANQUET \$95.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 5th  
NIMITZ MUSEUM TOUR \$36.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 6th  
SAN ANTONIO CITY TOUR \$50.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 7th  
BANQUET INCLUDED IN REGISTRATION

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 8th  
DEPARTURE

Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: USS SHIELDS REUNION ASSOCIATION

Send checks to:

Robert N. Carl  
6987 Lazy Sunset Ct  
Las Vegas, NV 89156-7206

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING YOUR CHECK IS: FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 2011**

**USS SHIELDS DD-596 ALL ERAS REUNION ASSOCIATION**  
**2011 Membership Application and Renewal Form**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Wife's first name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ City State (9 digits ZIP Code Please)

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Years served aboard SHIELDS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rank/rate on SHIELDS** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make your check out to: USS SHIELDS REUNION ASSOCIATION.**

Please mail this form with a check in the amount of \$25.00 to cover your dues for the calendar year of 2011. Mail to:

**USS SHIELDS DD-596 ALL ERAS REUNION ASSOCIATION**  
**c/o Robert N. Carl, Secretary**  
**6987 Lazy Sunset Ct.**  
**Las Vegas, NV 89156-7206**

**Ships Store Items**



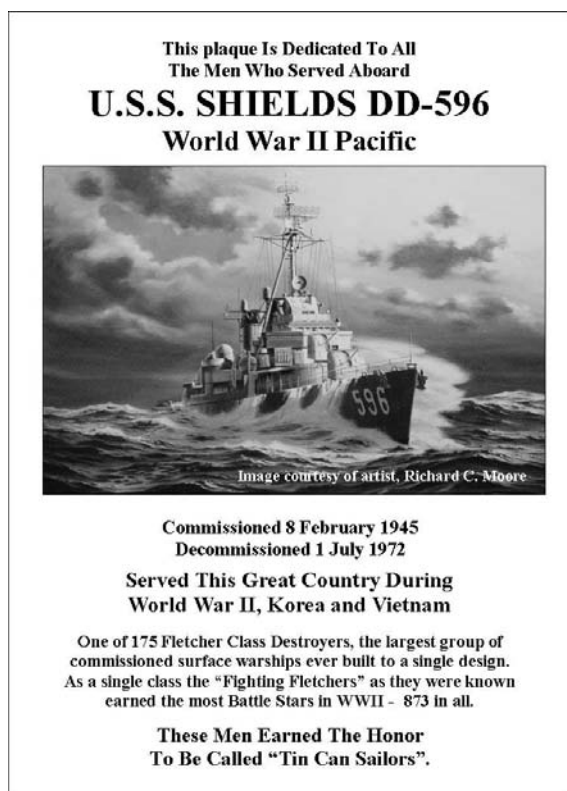
#1036  
USS Shields Hat

**Back in stock the Shield's Ball Cap. The cap can be ordered by sending a note requesting a cap and your check for \$19.00 (\$15.00 for the cap and \$4.00 S&H) made payable to USS Shields DD-596 Reunion Association to Robert Carl, Secretary, his address is above.**



Photo Courtesy of John Truesdale RMSN 64-67

## Plaque Dedication Planned for 2011 San Antonio Reunion



On Monday, September 5th, 2011 those in attendance at the annual reunion in San Antonio will travel by bus to the National Museum of the Pacific War (also known as the Nimitz Museum) to dedicate this plaque as it is placed on the Memorial Wall. We will honor those shipmates who served aboard SHIELDS during WWII.

Mrs. Marty Kaderli of the Museum Staff has written in part "We are honored to have this fine tribute to the USS SHIELDS here at the National Museum of the Pacific War".

Your association thanks those shipmates who contributed to the design and funding of this fitting tribute to our ship and her crewmembers. Special thanks to Chaplain Richard Moore for his permission to use his painting on our tribute.

You can learn more about the museum at [www.pacificwarmuseum.org](http://www.pacificwarmuseum.org).

## Ship's History Thru WWII

Contributed by Jack Blann

The USS SHIELDS DD-596, a 2100 ton Fletcher Class Destroyer named after Purser Thomas Shields, a naval hero of the War of 1812, was launched on 25 September 1944 at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington. She was sponsored by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Margaret Shields Farr, WAC, the great granddaughter of Purser Shields. On 8 February 1945, she was commissioned and immediately commenced her shake down training.

SHIELDS first combat mission in World War II was the shelling of entrenched Japanese forces in the support of Australian assault troops in Brunei Bay, Borneo on 26-27 June 1945. From this action, SHIELDS went on to take part in escort duty for ships returning to Leyte Gulf, Philippines. After minor repairs in Leyte, she rejoined the Seventh Fleet on 26 July and shortly thereafter returned to Brunei Bay.

On her return trip to Brunei Bay, SHIELDS and an accompanying Destroyer Metcalf were diverted from their course to pick up survivors of the oilier CHLSTATHE which had struck a mine in the Balabac Straits. After debarking the survivors, the two ships rejoined the Seventh Fleet in Manila Bay on 29 July, and participated in maneuvers with nine other destroyers and six cruisers off Manila Bay from 31 July to 7 August 1945. SHIELDS was on station in San Pedro Bay, Leyte, when the news of Japan's surrender was received.

After various duties in the Pacific including escorting ships landing occupation troops in Jinsen, Korea, picking up a downed pilot and showing the flag in various Korean and Chinese ports, SHIELDS headed home 11 February 1946. She was decommissioned 7 February 1947 and was recalled to duty with the advent of the Korean conflict.

## Optional Tour Itinerary for the San Antonio Reunion

Tours have been one of the most enjoyed activities at our reunions. See the itinerary on page 5 for further details. We give special attention to those shipmates needing assistance on and off the bus and at the sites we visit.

Here are more details about the stops on the tours scheduled for the San Antonio reunion.

### National Museum of the Pacific War (Nimitz Museum)



On Monday 5 September we depart for the National Museum of the Pacific War (Nimitz Museum) located in Fredericksburg, TX. The museum offers 50,000 square feet of indoor exhibit space that boasts an impressive display of Allied and Japanese aircraft, tanks, guns and other large artifacts made famous during the Pacific War campaigns. This museum is the only institution in the continental United States dedicated to telling the story of the Pacific Theater battles of WWII. The total site covers six acres. During our visit we will dedicate a plaque to all the men who served on the Shields with special recognition to those serving aboard during WWII.

On Tuesday 6 September the all day tour covers six of the biggest attractions in San Antonio

**The Alamo** cradle of Texas liberty established in 1718 as Mission San Antonio De Lalero. It was the first of five missions built along the San Antonio River. Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie, Colonel Travis and 186 valiant men sacrificed their lives at the Alamo fighting for Texas Independence.

**Riverboat Ride** cruising the San Antonio River along the river walk with its cafes, tropical foliage and charming boutiques.

**Japanese Sunken Gardens** renowned for its beautiful foliage and location in a former quarry which dates back to 1899.

**Texas Ranger Museum** houses hundreds of Ranger artifacts. The highlight is Ranger Town a recreation of San Antonio at the turn of the century.

**El Mercado** shops and restaurants line this three-block outdoor plaza. You will experience the rich culture of San Antonio at the largest Mexican market in the U.S. The plazas of Market Square stand near San Antonio's city center.

The Emily Morgan Hotel Location of Our 2011 Reunion



Our Hotel is located directly opposite to The Alamo in the heart of San Antonio

The Alamo with the hotel in the background

## Shipmate's Follow Up Note

By: **Wendell L. Beard TE2, 55-56**

In 1954 I was assigned to the USS Shields DD596 in the Radio Shack and in charge of the Postal Service aboard the ship. I was a Telemann 2<sup>nd</sup> Class and the only one aboard that was cleared for Cryptology. There was one room and one door to this room in the Radio Shack. I ran into conflict when I told the 1<sup>st</sup> Class Radioman in charge of the Radio Shack that he was not allowed into that room because he was not cleared. Of course he challenged me because he was in charge of the Radio Shack. That is when I first came aboard as a 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Telemann so I did not get a good start public relations wise however I organized the Post Office aboard to be more efficient.

In your Newsletter dated January 2011 you covered the story of the ship running aground in Hawaii and I was on board at that time. It was a shame for those three officers that were in charge on that day because it hurt their careers. However from a sailor's point of view on board the ship during that incident, it allowed us to stay another week in Hawaii which I thought was great.

## Tour of the All Eras Association Website



This is the top of the opening page on our website. Clicking on the any of the words below the masthead will take you to that section, examples follow.

Clicking on **“The Shields”** takes you to the ships history.

**DD-596 USS Shields**

- Fletcher Class Destroyer
- Displacement: 2050 tons
- Length: 376'6"
- Beam: 39'4"
- Draft: 17'9"
- Speed: 35 knots
- Armament: 5 5"/38, 2x5 21" torpedo tubes
- Complement: 329
- High-pressure super-heated boilers, geared turbines with twin screws, 60,000
- Built at Puget Sound Navy Yard and commissioned 1945

**Shields**  
(DD-696: dp. 2,050; l. 376'5"; b. 39'7"; dr. 17'9"; sp. 35.2 k.; cpl. 329; a. 5 5", 10 40mm., 10 21" tt., cl. Fletcher)

The keel of the destroyer, Shields, was laid on 10 August 1943 at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton Washington. Lieutenant Margaret Shields Farr, WAC, the great-granddaughter of Purser Shields, the destroyer was launched on 25 commissioned on 8 February 1945, Commander George B. Madden, USN, in command.

The above is only a small portion of the information on this page..

Two tabs **“Shipmates”** and **“Visitors Log”** will be updated in the near future.

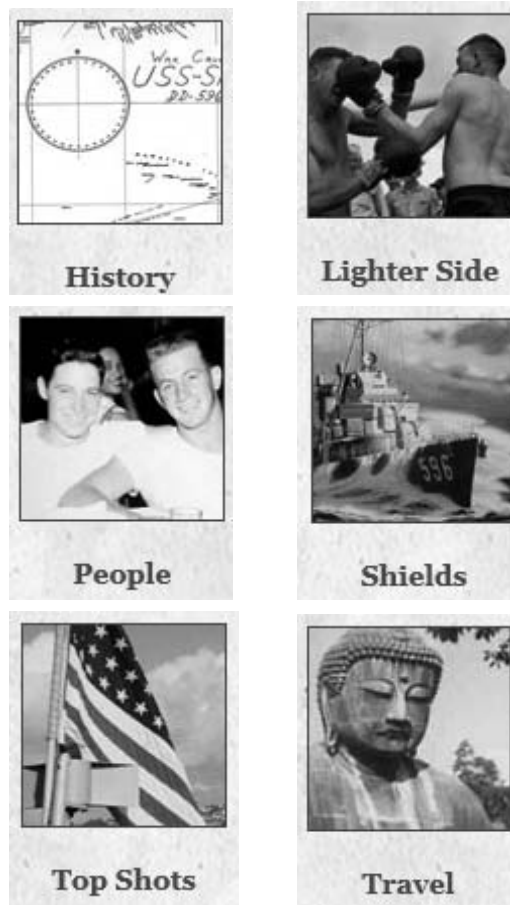
Selecting the **“Newsletters”** will take you to all of the publications to date listed by year.

2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>Newsletters</b>	<b>Newsletters</b>	<b>Newsletters</b>	<b>Newsletters</b>
<a href="#">January</a>	<a href="#">January</a>	<a href="#">January</a>	<a href="#">January</a>
<a href="#">April</a>	<a href="#">April</a>	<a href="#">April</a>	<a href="#">April</a>
<a href="#">July</a>	<a href="#">July</a>	<a href="#">July</a>	<a href="#">July</a>
<a href="#">October</a>	<a href="#">October</a>	<a href="#">October</a>	<a href="#">October</a>
<b>2011</b>			
<b>Newsletters</b>			
<a href="#">January</a>			
<a href="#">April</a>			

Clicking on a month will bring up that issue. You will need to have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your system which can be downloaded free from:

<http://get.adobe.com/reader>

The **“Photo Book”** link opens a number of additional pages those icons are shown below.



The **“Reunions”** page is printed in this issue on page 4 You can download a sign-up sheet from this link.

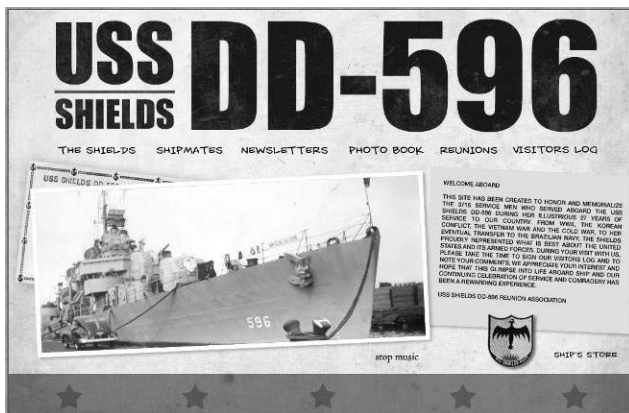
Thanks to Trevor Crafts who created and maintains the site. We welcome photos, documents and other Shields related history. Please do not send originals. For consideration contact Jack Blann for more information about submitting items. His contact information is listed on page two of this issue.

USS SHIELDS DD-596 ALL ERAS REUNION ASSOCIATION  
C/O ROBERT N. CARL (SECRETARY)  
6987 LAZY SUNSET CT  
LAS VEGAS, NV 89156-7206

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Visit the Association Website

At the website you can view the history, photos, prior issues of the newsletter and ship store items. It is a great place to renew memories of your time aboard.



<http://www.dd596.com>

### Keep Your Contact Info Updated

Check your address on this newsletter and if not 100% correct, including Apartment, Condo, Mobile Home, Space number and the zip code + 4 digits, please notify Jim Dorough listed in the contact information. If e-mailing please include DD-596 in the subject line.

If you move do not forget to notify Jim Dorough of your new address, phone number and any change in your E-mail address. Put a change of address in with the Post Office. The change of address stays on file with the post office for about 18 months.

These actions will insure you continue to receive the newsletter and will reduce expenses from returned mail and the cost of re-mailing newsletters.