

2020 INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA REUNION

# USS EVERETT F LARSON DD/DDR 830

WINTER/SPRING 2020 Official Publication of the USS EVERETT F. LARSON Reunion /Association  
Newsletter Address: 923 SE 21st Street, Cape Coral, FL 33990  
[www.usseverettflarson.com](http://www.usseverettflarson.com)

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## 2020 OFFICERS

Ellis Warmkessel, President  
11740 Coronado Drive.  
Spring Hill, FL 34609  
(352) 232 7655  
[erwarmkessel@aol.com](mailto:erwarmkessel@aol.com)

Art Jacobson, V. President  
141 W. Baylor Lane  
Gilbert, AZ 85233  
(C) 480-625-5050  
[artjacobson@yahoo.com](mailto:artjacobson@yahoo.com)

Gene Maresca, Treasurer &  
Larson Historian.  
2406 Rutgers Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46227  
(317) 786-5788.  
[genemaresca@aol.com](mailto:genemaresca@aol.com)

Terry Weathers, Secretary.  
9964 Sniktaw Lane.  
Fort Jones, CA 96032.  
(530) 468-2234.  
[tmw@sisqtel.net](mailto:tmw@sisqtel.net)

Executive Committee  
(includes Pres. & Vice Pres)

Larry Laub  
227 Main Street  
Covington, OH 45318  
937-214-6592  
[admiralB1945@gmail.com](mailto:admiralB1945@gmail.com)

Joe Torres  
9236 South 10th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85041  
(602) 243-3495  
[joeyt07@msn.com](mailto:joeyt07@msn.com)

Tom Nordquist,  
Larson Newsletter Editor  
11608 Channel View Drive  
Lakeview, OH 43331  
(937) 477-4613  
[tnordqu670@aol.com](mailto:tnordqu670@aol.com)

Bernard Diaz, Chaplain  
6731 Branch Street  
Hollywood, FL 33024  
[bensab@bellsouth.net](mailto:bensab@bellsouth.net)

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

It's that time of the year again, when thoughts of our next Reunion and getting together with our shipmates are on our minds. This year's Reunion will be held September 16-20, 2020.

The 2019 Seattle Reunion was hosted by the USS Eversole and the October weather was cool but dry. There were tours for those that participated and sightseeing for others. This was the first combined Reunion of the three ships, the USS Everett F. Larson, Shelton and Eversole. There were new friendships made and I'm sure many more to be made at future Reunions.

The 2020 Indianapolis Reunion will be hosted by the Larson crew and being handled by our own Historian and Treasurer Gene Maresca, Gene has lived in Indianapolis for many years, so he was able to arrange great tour packages for all attendees. One of the activities that always has been a hit, is the annual Raffle to raise money to offset costs of future reunions. Our Pete Barnett & his helpers provide memorable entertainment during the tickets drawing. Everyone always has a great time. All attendees are requested to bring a Raffle Item of nominal value, as a donation. Your item should be travel friendly.

The time is also here for annual dues of \$20 or a lifetime membership of \$150. Our Treasurer, Gene Maresca (address under 2020 Officers) will be accepting your check. The dues are used for expense of maintaining the USS Everest F. Larson Reunion Association.

Hope to see you at the 2020 Indianapolis Reunion.

**Your President,  
Ellis Warmkessel**

**From Art Jacobson, Larson Liaison Coordinator with Gearing Gang**

As voted on and approved at the 2019 Seattle Reunion, I am glad to announce the USS Everett F. Larson Reunion Association has joined with the USS Eversole and USS Shelton as a unit of the Gearing Reunion Group. The results of this were shown by the increased attendance numbers. We had a combined total of 64 people in attendance for the final event.

The USS Eversole was host Ship for the Seattle Reunion. All activities and functions were well received by all attendees, Setting up a functioning organization was also accomplished. The Gearing Gang Organization will consist of two (2) members of each ship to represent their ship in all decisions going forward.

In addition, the Ship members will designate a Commanding Officer and Executive officer assisting the assigned Ship members.

The commanding Officer duty is to be a resource to each ship and act as a Liaison to find additional Destroyer Class ships that may want to join with our Group in the future.. The Commanding Officer will have no vote in the committee.

The Executive Officer will conduct all meetings of the Gearing Group representatives. The Executive Officer will have a vote only in the event of a tie vote among the ship representatives. The Executive Officer will undertake other duties as directed by the group.

I look forward to any positive thoughts about our upcoming Indianapolis Reunion. This reunion will be hosted by the Larson Reunion Association.

Indianapolis will be a great reunion for everyone.

Art

**Note from Tom Nordquist, our Ship's Newsletter Editor & Website Coordinator**

If you have a contribution to future Newsletters and Larson Website, please let me know at: [tnordqu670@aol.com](mailto:tnordqu670@aol.com) or call me at my Cell# 937-477-4613 or contact Ellis Warmkessel, our President at his phone or Email Address. There are hundreds of great sea stories all of us would like to hear. Give us as much detail as possible, dates & names, etc.

**ANNUAL DUES**

**If you are not a current member, please consider becoming a current member. Effective March 1, 2015 - Annual dues are \$20.00/year or Lifetime Membership is \$150.00. Make checks out to: USS EVERETT F. LARSON (DD/DDR830) Association. Mail to Gene Maresca, 2406 Rutgers Road, Indianapolis, IN 46227**

**IN MEMORIAM - BERNARD DIAZ, CHAPLAIN  
Departed Shipmates (Since 2019 Summer letter)**

| <u>ShipMate</u>            | <u>On Board.</u> | <u>Rating</u> | <u>Deceased</u> |
|----------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Robert L. Hosley Jr.       | 1952-53.         | SD3.          | 11/23/2019      |
| Brinson E. Hughes.         | 1969-72.         |               | 9/29/2016       |
| Jimmy Hughes               | 1959-63          |               | 12/12/2019      |
| Lee Smith Capt. CO         | 1971-72          |               | 7/25/2018       |
| Clement C. Sawyer.         | 1945-46(PO)      | S1.           | 5/8/2019        |
| Huck Nikirk                | 1945-46.         | ETM2.         | 8/25/2019       |
| George B. Bentley.         |                  |               | 2/8/2018        |
| Lowell H. Klosky. CDR.     | XO.              |               | 2/21/2018       |
| Joseph Bonner.             | 1952-54          |               |                 |
| Richard M. Curtis.         | 1951-52.         |               | 7/16/2013       |
| John McGready              | 1950's.          |               | 11/28/2013      |
| Loren D Hemmele.           |                  |               | 5/10/2011       |
| Edwin Charnley             |                  |               | 2/10/2019       |
| James Mason                | 1950's           |               |                 |
| Ernest G. Ginder Jr        | 1949-50          | MMFN.         | 4/1/2017        |
| Robert G. Powell.          | 1945 (PO).       | TM3.          | 11/18/1998      |
| Edward Giblin.             | 1945.            | SF3           | 6/27/2016       |
| Paul G. Blondin.           | 1950's.          | CWO3.         | 2/2019          |
| William A. Maurey.         |                  |               | 3/27/2019       |
| Phil Park.                 |                  | SH3           |                 |
| John Rodgers.              |                  | SO3           |                 |
| Bob Hammond.               |                  | RD2           |                 |
| Jimmy Hughes.              |                  | SN            |                 |
| Charles J. "Curly" Yonker. |                  | IC2           |                 |
| John Soflin.               | 1969-71.         |               | 3/3/2020        |

**HISTORIAN REPORT WINTER 2020**

The Seattle Reunion made history in many ways.

It was our first Reunion with the USS Shelton and USS Eversole. A NICE bunch of people and we got to tell and hear some NEW lies for a change!

Departed Plank Owner Warren Heinck was represented by his son-in-law, who still wears Warren's dog tags in his memory and out of respect. This was truly heart warming.

At the other end of the spectrum, I'm sorry to report that Captain Lee O. Smith passed away over a year ago. We didn't learn about it until just before the Seattle Reunion, as several of us had been trying to locate him for years. He was Larson CO, when the Larson earned its Combat Action Ribbon in Viet Nam and I heard many times how much the crew admired him. When his XO, James Toland, learn about this, he sent us the Everett f. Larson banner that flew from the mast when the Larson was under fire. I hope we can get as many as possible from that crew at the Indianapolis reunion to make a photo of them with that banner.

See you then,  
Gene

## REPEAT INFORMATION - CONGRESS H.R. 299 BILL BLUE WATER NAVY VIETNAM VETERANS OF 2019

The US Senate has unanimously passed the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act & signed by the President.

Complete eligible ship's listing & dates, are at [www.benefits.va.gov](http://www.benefits.va.gov) for the Navy & Coast guard Ships Associated with Service in Vietnam & Exposure to Herbicide Agents dated March 1, 2019.

### Use Everett F. Larson DD830 dates of Operation:

- Ship Category 1 - Ships operating primarily or exclusively on Vietnam inland waterways. **Operated on Mekong River during December 15, 1967.**

- Ship Category 4 - Ships operating on Vietnam's close coastal waters for extended periods with evidence that crew members were ashore. Operated. **LARSON crew members went ashore while anchored in Van Phong Bay on September 15, 1969.**

### LARSON LOGO APPAREL

An Account has been set up with L. L. Bean to supply Larson Shipmates with Clothing apparel. A shipping cost & state tax may apply.

2 logos are set up with their art department in black lettering for light colored apparel & gold lettering for dark colored apparel. Products include Polo shirts, long sleeve shirts, jackets, baseball caps are available: small to XXL for men & women, a Larson logo will be added. A service charge of \$16.00 for embroidered Logo. The clothing is very reasonable & great quality.

Phone # 1-800-832-1889, Reference: USS EVERETT F. LARSON, Account # 543365

Website: [www.llbeanbusiness.com](http://www.llbeanbusiness.com)

### Note from Jim Sinclair, Electrician 3th Class

In early December 1968, I was reassigned to the USS WALKER DD723 out of Long Beach, CA. So within a short 6 weeks, I was given an across the pier transfer to the Larson on 2/3/1969. We left for WesPac in late March. While doing training and readiness drills off Hawaii, it was discovered that the Larson had some steering problems. We limped into Pearl Harbor & R division worked straight through the clock to fix the problem. After being awake for 36 hours, I was reassembling the after steering switchboard, one of the several supply circuits was energized too soon & I had my hand across 440 Volt terminals.

Well, that was the end of my time on the Larson, but I remember my shipmates coming to Trippier Army Hospital a week or so later to "tack on my Crow", as I made 3rd class Electrician, A crusty old MMCM in a bed next to me growled "All you electricians are the same, just get zapped & they give you a stripe".

Jim

## 2020 GEARING GANG/LARSON REUNION INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA SEPTEMBER 16-20

Our 3 ship 2020 Reunion will be fast approaching, with the USS Shelton, USS Eversole & USS Everett F. Larson in attendance. The Larson will be the host Ship this year with Gene Maresca, Art Jacobson & Ellis Warmkessel in charge of all arrangements. Other Destroyer Groups are welcome to send attendees to join us, if they like. As The World War 2 Destroyer Class Shipmates grow smaller with the passing years, more Ships will probably be combining.

Summary of items of interest for this year's Reunion:

- Shuttle service to the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel from the Airport is provided by the hotel. Call on arrival. There are phones in Zone 2 area.
- For those arriving Tuesday, There will be a gathering in the hotel lobby at 6:00pm. Joining up for Dinner together.
- We will try to have a Shipmate available Tuesday evening for early registration.
- Parking at the hotel is Free.
- Formal Registration will begin 1:00pm on Wednesday, 9/16.
- A Mixer is planned for Wednesday evening for 7:00pm, Art Jacobson will be in charge all activities that evening. We had a lot of fun at last year's Reunion in Seattle, so we look forward to another great evening.

### WEDNESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 16th GOLF SCRAMBLE in Indianapolis Area (Weather Permitting)

- Advise if Golf clubs will be for required at Golf Club. All attendees can play. Please contact Dick Petrowich ([rbpetrowich@gmail.com](mailto:rbpetrowich@gmail.com)) or 1-618-475-3248 or 1-618-691-8832.your interest & advise him by August 16th or need for clubs. 2 man teams are ok.

### THURSDAY ACTIVITY, SEPTEMBER 17TH CONNER

**PRAIRIE.** A working village as it was in the 1840's. Grounds are divided into different historical eras, with staff in era clothing demonstrating the way early inhabitants of the area lived. They perform tasks cooking, chopping wood, making pottery, & tending to animals.

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH INDIANAPOLIS MOTOR SPEEDWAY MUSEUM & WORLD WAR 1 MUSEUM MEMORIAL. MEMORIAL SERVICE.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH ANNUAL MEETING & RAFFLE & BANQUET.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All reservations are being handled by Gene Maresca, 2406 Rutgers Road, Indianapolis, IN 46277 Phone# 1-317-786-5788.

Registration fee is \$20.00/person. If you live close to Indianapolis & can only attend on Saturday, 9/19, Registration fee is \$10.00/person, Registration fee is waived, if attending the Banquet.

**2020 USS EVERETT F. LARSON REUNION, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA - SEPTEMBER 16-20**

Hotel - **Wyndham Indianapolis West**, 2544 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46241

Hotel Phone # 1-317-248-2481 or 1-877-361-4511. Group Code: **Gearing Reunion 2020**

Rate: **\$109.00/night+Tax** (includes Breakfast). Hotel cut off is August 15, 2020.

Hotel Shuttle Service at Airport Ground Transportation Area - Zone 2. Call Above Phone# Above.

**All Venues are Handicap Accessible.**

| DATE                  | EVENT  | (*/person) | # of People | Total \$                     |
|-----------------------|--|------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| <b>WED.<br/>9/16</b>  | <b>Registration</b> in Hospitality Room, 7:00pm, Mixer with games.<br>Registration Fee is <b>\$20.00/person X</b>  |            | _____       | = \$ _____                   |
| <b>THUR.<br/>9/17</b> | <b>Tour of Connor Prairie, an 1840's Working Village. W/ Box Lunch</b><br>Smoked Ham/Cheese _____ Chicken Salad _____ Veggie Wrap _____<br>Bus boards at 9:15am, Returns to Hotel at 3pm. Cost: <b>\$75.00* X</b><br>To add 15 Minute Hot Air Balloon Ride, Good Weather <b>\$10.00 * X</b>                                      |            | _____       | \$ _____<br>\$ _____         |
| <b>FRI.<br/>9/18</b>  | <b>Tour of Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum. Lunch at 1911 Grill</b><br>Lunch: Chicken Parmesan _____. Beef Stroganoff _____<br><b>Followed by World War 1 Memorial &amp; Museum. Memorial Service.</b><br>Bus boards at 9:30am. Returns at 4:00pm. Cost: <b>\$85.00* X</b>  |            | _____       | \$ _____                     |
| <b>SAT.<br/>9/19</b>  | <b>Morning Meeting - Elections. Raffle. Free afternoon.</b><br><b>BANQUET (Cash Bar-5:30pm, Serving 6:30pm) Program &amp; Music/Dancing MEAL: **</b><br>Pot Roast ____ Chicken Breast/ Grilled Shrimp____ Cost: <b>\$65.00* X</b><br><b>** If you need a special meal for Saturday Banquet. Please Advise: Vegan/Gluten free</b> |            | _____       | \$ _____                     |
| <b>Sun.<br/>9/20</b>  | <b>Departure: Leave for Home</b>   |            |             | <b>TOTAL AMOUNT \$</b> _____ |

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ 1st Name for Name Tag: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_ 1st Name for Name Tag: \_\_\_\_\_

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

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

What Years did you serve on the Larson: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send Registration Check made out to:: EUGENE MARESCA , 2406 Rutgers Road, Indianapolis, IN 46227. Phone# # 1-317-786-5788 EMAIL: GeneMMaresca@aol.com**

**PAYMENT REQUIRED BY AUGUST 16, 2020,.**

**PLEASE BRING YOUR LARSON LANYARD, IF YOU HAVE ONE.**

## **NEW MILITARY COMMISSARY ACCESS FOR VETERANS AND CAREGIVERS**

The **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS** and the **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE** allow newly eligible customers on Military Bases to shop effective January 1, 2020.

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE? WHEN AND WHERE CAN I SHOP?**

Commissaries, exchanges and some morale, welfare and recreation facilities will be open to Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, veterans with any service-connected disability and caregivers registered with the Veteran Affairs Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers Program beginning January 1, 2020. Reserve members who fit this description will also have access.

Retired service members, Medal of Honor recipients and veterans with a service-related disability rating of 100 percent will continue to have access to on-base facilities and obtain a DOD identification card to get on base.

### **AS AN ELIGIBLE VETERAN, HOW WILL I SHOP?**

The **DOD** and **VA** have approved two (2) ways for newly eligible veterans to get on-bases to use their benefits in person: the Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) or a letter from the VA along with an acceptable REAL ID-complaint identification, which includes passports and some state driver's license.

The VHIC must show the Veteran's eligibility: Purple Heart, Former POW or Service Connected - on the front, under the Photo, to be accepted. More information about VHIC's and be found on the VA website.

Access to bases will not be granted to new customers who qualify for VA health care, but are not enrolled in it and thus do not have a VHIC, according to the latest Military OneSource news release.

"If they choose not to apply for enrollment to obtain a VHIC, they will not have access," adding that only the VA can verify the eligibility of Veterans and Caregivers.

### **WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE A VHIC?**

The "Small group" of Veterans who do not qualify for VHIC due to a non-compensable service-connected condition rated at 0% will need a REAL-ID complaint identification and their Health Eligibility Center Form H623A, which shows they are in Priority Group 8E. This is "temporary" until the DOD and VA can come up with a long-term alternative for these veterans.

Veterans who can't locate their HEC H623A letter can call the VA at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

Beginning January 1, 2020, these newly eligible Veterans will have to pass an initial basic, on-the-spot background check to gain access and then an automated check each subsequent time. Veterans or Caregivers with felony convictions, felony arrest warrants of derogatory information related to criminal history or terrorism will be prohibited from entering.

Depending on the type of installation, these VHIC carrying Veterans will be able to enroll in recurring access, which lets them bypass the visitor control center and enter through the gates. A spouse or anyone accompanying them might also be able to enroll in this recurring access if the guest has an identification that supports it, according to the recent Military OneSource news release.

The Veteran's VHIC or letter will be used at the point of sale. The cashier will either scan the card or manually input a code when the VA HEC Form H623A is used.

Currently, all honorably discharged Veterans can shop over the internet through the Veterans Online Shopping Benefit. They can set up an account for any of the military exchange websites: Army and Air Force Exchange System, Coast Guard Exchange, Navy Exchange Command and the Veterans Canteen Service.

### **CAN I BRING A GUEST WITH ME TO GO SHOPPING?**

Yes, but the guest cannot buy anything and they must be with the sponsor at all times.

All military installation may not always comply with this guest shopping. Check ahead of time.

### **WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR A CAREGIVER?**

The process is similar to that of VHIC-holding Veterans, but Caregivers will receive a letter issued by the VA Office of Community Care saying they qualify as a primary family Caregiver of an eligible Veteran.

To be admitted on base and to purchase items from. The commissary or Exchange, they will need to bring their VA letter plus one of the types of identification listed below: DOD common access card, REAL ID-complaint driver's license or other ID issued by a state, territory, possession or District of Columbia, US Passport bearing an unexpired immigrant or non-immigrant visa or entry stamp, Federal personal identify verification card, VHIC or Transportation Worker Identification Card.

When shopping on base, Caregivers will use this letter at the point of sale; since it can't be scanned like the VHIC, the cashier will manually put it into the register.

### **WHAT TYPE OF MWR FACILITIES WILL I BE ELIGIBLE FOR?**

Newly eligible Veterans and Caregivers will be able to shop at Commissaries one Exchanges and use some MWR facilities: golf courses, bowling alleys, movie theaters, marinas & kennels. The DOD official temporary duty and permanent change of station lodging facilities will be on a space available basis.

### **WAIT, THERE ARE FEES?**

Credit Card fee is 1.9% & Debit Card Fee is .5%.

**Reference: [military.com](http://military.com), Dorothy Mills-Gregg**