

# USS Casa Grande LSD-13

*"From sea to beach-head always ready"*

MAY 2021



**Hello shipmates from Bob Moody DC2 1966-1969**

I hope this years' newsletter finds all shipmates and their families free of any pandemic issues. It's been a long year with many ups and downs for the country but hopefully we are starting to see some light at the end of the tunnel, and we will emerge stronger than ever. While all of this has been going on the Casa Grande Reunion Association (CGRA) is still alive and well and has exciting plans for the 2021 reunion.

One of the few major changes for the CGRA is the procedure for sending out the annual newsletter. From this date forward all newsletters will be sent via email only. The cost to produce and mail the annual newsletter considering duplication, stamps, labels, and additional prep work is just too expensive. We truly received little feedback from our efforts by mailing. If you have any changes to your home address or email address

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please contact Bob Moody at [mowedge@zoominternet.net](mailto:mowedge@zoominternet.net) who maintains the Casa Grande Reunion Association roster.

OK let's take a look at our current situation with regard to annual reunions. Unfortunately we had to cancel our plans for Hampton, Va. in 2020 due to Covid but our group was not alone. I do not know of any military reunion that was held beyond August of 2020 due to the pandemic. One of the agenda items that were scheduled to be voted on by the members present was the future of the CGRA annual reunions. Earlier last year we were contacted by a gentleman named Louis "Skip" Sander who is the lead for another reunion group named the Amphibious Ships Reunion. This group has been together for a few years and has had highly successful reunions but only for anyone who served in the "**Gator Navy**". Skip is also the founder of the Alliance of Military Reunions which assists military groups in the planning of their reunions no matter what branch of the military you served in. Skip is extremely knowledgeable in all phases of military reunions over the years and is highly respected by military reunion planners nationally. Skip had invited the USS Casa Grande Reunion Association to join them last September in Annapolis, MD. For their annual reunion but due to safety concerns for Covid, that reunion had to be cancelled also. Since the Hampton reunion had to be cancelled we did not have the opportunity to discuss and vote on attending the Amphibious Ships reunion group in Annapolis. There were no plans in the works for a 2021 reunion for the CGRA so the Executive Board decided to officially join the Amphibious Ships reunion group for all future CGRA annual reunions. The CGRA can attend with our ships organized reunion group so we will still be together and hold our annual meetings along with making new "Gator" friends. **This does not mean that the Casa Grande Reunion Association will be ending. If anything this move will give us longevity for our group as the worry of hosting an annual reunion is no longer a factor for our aging members.**

## **The 2021 Reunion will be in Annapolis Md.**

The Amphibious Ships Reunion will start on Monday, September 20, 2021 with hotel checkout on Friday, September 24, 2021 at the Crowne Plaza Annapolis Hotel. Rather than duplicate efforts to post the registration form and reunion information to this email, please go to the following website [www.amphibreunion.org](http://www.amphibreunion.org). to download the 2021 reunion information. It is an excellent site which will assist you in making your reservations with easy to understand instructions. This is very important.....You must make your own hotel reservations as that is your responsibility and is not included in the registration form. Follow the instructions for hotel reservations that are explained in the amphibious ships reunion website. Skip has advised that hotel reservations be made ASAP to make sure they do not sell out. Skip also advises that you wait until near the

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deadline which is August 9, 2021 to send in your registration in case the unexpected occurs and we would have to cancel. I very much doubt this will happen but I want to make sure we err on the side of caution.

As an incentive to join us in Annapolis the Casa Grande Reunion Association Executive Board has decided to reimburse shipmates for their reunion registration fee which is \$45 per person. The board feels we should also cover the \$45 registration fee for the spouses or significant others since most are Associate members of the organization. That is a savings of \$90 per couple that will be refunded during the reunion from the CGRA Treasury. **YOU MUST SEND IN YOUR REGISTRATION FEE AT THE TIME YOU MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS HOWEVER.** Please note all reservations must be in no later than August 9, 2021 which is the absolute deadline.

Here is the information for making your reservation at the Crowne Plaza Annapolis. Please follow the instructions and make your hotel reservations now.

## HOTEL INFORMATION



Experience a comfortable and upscale stay at Crowne Plaza Annapolis located near the excitement of downtown and historic Annapolis – sailing capital of the world. This hotel is also conveniently located within walking distance to well-known chain restaurants and shopping at Westfield Annapolis Mall. In downtown Annapolis enjoy attractions like shopping, historic attractions and waterfront restaurants, United States Naval Academy, Maryland State House and more.

Guests can enjoy remarkable amenities including family accommodations, room service, flexible meeting space, sundry shop, restaurant, bar, sun deck, Jacuzzi and indoor pool. Guests can stay up to date on their fitness routines with our 24-hour Fitness Center and state-of-the-art equipment. For travelers who are seeking a

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hypoallergenic environment, enjoy PURE Wellness guestrooms that undergo a patented 7-step purification process to remove up to 99.9% of pollutants and allergens, so you can breathe easy and relax comfortably. Complimentary high speed Internet access is offered in all of the guests rooms so guests can stay connected.

Our reunion officially runs from Monday, September 20 to Saturday, September 25, 2021 at the *Crowne Plaza Annapolis Hotel*, located at 173 Jennifer Road, Annapolis MD 21401, the hotel is conveniently located within walking distance of a large Mall and many restaurants and just a few miles from the water and historic downtown Annapolis. The room rate is just **\$125.00** plus tax per night with a **breakfast buffet**, daily during reunion dates. The group rate is also available *one day* before the official start, based on availability.

To make hotel reservations, call the Crowne Plaza Hotel directly at **410-266-3131** and **press “0”** for the front desk (do NOT press 1 for reservations). Mention you are a key part of the Amphibious Ships Reunion and use **Group Code: SRR**. NOTE: Sometimes the hotel front is busy and the call will roll to central reservations in the Philippines and they will probably have a hard time finding our group rate. We have had problems with this already. If this happens hang up, wait 10 minutes and call the HOTEL back again and try to get to the front desk. If you still are having trouble, please call us at 817-251-3551 for help.

You may request specific room types when you call to make your reservations (accessible room, etc.). The hotel check-in time is 4:00pm; please don't *expect* to get into your room before then. Make your reservations today; you can cancel up to 72 hours prior to arrival without penalty. The hotel is holding rooms until they sell out or **August 20, 2021**, whichever comes first. Again, If you have any trouble getting a room at the group rate call MRP @ 817-251-3551 for assistance and probable resolution.

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## TRANSPORTATION & DIRECTIONS

If you are flying to the reunion, you can use either Baltimore International Airport (BWI) which is 24 miles from Annapolis or Reagan National Airport (DCA) 36 miles east of Annapolis. We recommend taking UBER, LYFT or DMV Transportation Services (240-640-0440) from the airport. For those of you driving, there is complimentary on-site parking at the hotel. [Click here](#) for driving directions or call the hotel directly at 410-266-3131.

Travel safely and we will .... **See you in Annapolis!**

**Below is the agenda for the 2021 reunion in Annapolis Md.**

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## Group Welcome Reception & Buffet Dinner at the Hotel

Monday, September 20 (1800)



A wonderful group welcome buffet dinner will be offered this evening for all those attending the reunion. Catch up on all the latest scuttlebutt from your shipmates and enjoy the company of other fellow members of the *Gator Navy*.

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## Tour of US Naval Academy (Lunch included) Tuesday, September 21 (0845-1445)



The morning will begin with a guided walking tour of the [U. S. Naval Academy](#) where you will see the USNA Main Chapel, the Crypt of John Paul Jones, Bancroft Hall Dormitory and more. The tour will end with the spectacle of the “Noon Formation,” whereby the midshipmen in uniform, muster for lunch. We will lunch also feasting on a Pizza Buffet lunch at the Drydock. After

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lunch you will have time to browse the unique shops and boutiques in the City Dock area or simply enjoy an ice cream while you sit and admire the yachts and nautical atmosphere of Old Annapolis. We will have shuttles to the hotel available after the tour so you can leave at your leisure.

## **Riding Tour of Baltimore, Liberty Ship and Harbor Sightseeing Cruise**

**Wednesday, September 22 (0900-1630)**

We will begin our day with a riding city tour of Baltimore, including Ft. McHenry. We will then stop to tour one of the only two surviving Liberty Ships. Out of an original fleet of 2,700, the SS John



Brown was part of a WWII initiative to quickly build cargo ships in mass. The [SS John Brown](#), sometimes called an ["ugly duckling"](#) because of its basic appearance, was launched from [Baltimore](#) in 1942. [Click here for a short video](#) of SS John Brown and [click here for a longer video](#) tour of the ship. After the tour enjoy lunch on your own at Baltimore's historic [Inner Harbor](#). After lunch, come aboard for a 60-minute sightseeing cruise out to the mouth of the Chesapeake. Kick back and relax as you take in the sites and enjoy a narration of Baltimore's rich history. Enjoy such sites as the USS Constellation, the Light-Ship Chesapeake, Submarine Torsk, the Dixie Sugar Factory, Bethlehem

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Steel, the National Aquarium and much more.

## **Riding Tour of Annapolis with Free Time to Explore on your Own Thursday, September 23 (0845-1445)**



Did you know that for a time, [Annapolis](#) was the capital of the United States? Annapolis has an amazing history and more sailboats per capita than any other place in the world. Our talented guide will recount historical perspectives while pointing out Revolutionary War-era homes, ancient St. Johns'

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College, the beautiful WWII Memorial overlooking the Severn River, and the beautiful Chesapeake Bay. We will also get out for pictures at a scenic-overlook and enjoy a nice view of the Naval Academy. Lunch will be on your own at the Annapolis City Dock area. After lunch, you will have time to explore Annapolis on your own. Shuttle buses will run back to the hotel so you may return at your leisure or stay until the last bus at 2:15. NOTE: you can select this tour or the "Combo" tour (below) for today.

## **Severn River Cruise** **Thursday, September 23 (1200-1445)**

If you'd prefer to sleep in today, don't miss an unforgettable afternoon



cruise down the Severn River. See stately mansions, lots of boats and other sites during this narrated river cruise. It will be calm as we stay on the river in our enclosed yacht. The spectacular Severn River and historic Annapolis Harbor flows along the banks of the United States Naval Academy for some great photo-ops. The tour boat will have a full bar service with light snacks available for purchase and restrooms on board. We will return to the hotel right after the cruise. NOTE: you may select this tour or the "Combo" tour (below) for today.



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## **Combo Tour: Riding Tour of Annapolis AND Severn River Cruise Thursday, September 23 (0845-1445)**

For those that want to do it all we offer this combo tour of BOTH the City Tour and Severn River cruise. In between tours you will have ample time to have lunch on your own and browse the historic shops, nautically themed boutiques and other attractions in the historic heart of the city. Let's go!

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## **Farewell Banquet Dinner at the Hotel Thursday, September 23 (1800)**

Join your friend for cocktails followed by dinner in the hotel Ballroom. Entrée selections include Chicken Dijon, Maryland Style Crab cakes and Braised Short Ribs. YUM!

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## **NOTE TO COLLEGE FOOTBALL FANS**

As we did last year, if Navy Football is playing a home game in Annapolis on Saturday, we will try and secure tickets. This would be a fun day with a bunch of Navy Fans tailgating and going to the game. If you are interested in attending, please send an email with "NAVY Football" on the Subject line to [RayCasey@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com](mailto:RayCasey@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com) for more information as it becomes available.

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## **MRP TOUR CANCELLATION INSURANCE**

Protect yourself from unforeseen expenses caused by illness, injury or any other events that may impact your travel plans. MRP Tour Cancellation Insurance allows you to receive a refund of tour and banquet expenses. Note: This does not cover hotel cancellations. If you do not purchase cancellation insurance, all tour and banquet monies are **non-refundable** 6 weeks prior to the start of the reunion.

## **Important Reunion Notes:**

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- Tours may be cancelled if a minimum of 30 people per bus is not met. In this instance you will be notified, and full refunds will be given.
- Please understand that a certain amount of walking is necessary in order to view and explore attractions. Please consider your limitations and note any special needs on your reservation form.
- Be sure to bring photo identification (like a driver’s license) to all events.
- Tour times are always subject to change up until tour time. A final itinerary is available at check-in.

**ALL RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY AUGUST 9, 2021.** Late reservations will be accepted on a space available basis with a non-refundable \$15 per person late fee. Please make a copy of your order prior to mailing. Note tour times are subject to change. Should you need additional information call our offices Monday through Friday CST at 817-251-3551 or email us at [info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com](mailto:info@MilitaryReunionPlanners.com). Requests for refunds must be made in writing and postmarked no later than the reservation due date No refunds will be made after this date unless you have purchased *Tour Cancellation Insurance*. Cancellation Insurance expires at 11:59 pm the day **before** the reunion start date. Please note there is a refund processing fee of \$10 per person. Your cancelled check is your receipt as well as proof of purchase. For written confirmation of your reservation please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your cancellation request. A \$25 return check fee applies. MRP will not be held liable for failure of vendors to provide contracted services or any injuries/accidents that may occur during the reunion.

Please go to the following website [www.amphibreunion.org](http://www.amphibreunion.org) to find the registration form. You can either pay by check and mail it in or register online.

This being our first reunion with the Amphibious Ships Reunion group, we are hoping for a nice turnout. This move will give us a great opportunity to extend the Casa Grande Reunion Association since setting up the annual reunion is no longer an issue. All we do is show up and enjoy the comradery without all the legwork. If you have never attended a Casa Grande reunion in the last 20 years you don’t realize what you are missing. Just give it a try and see for yourself.

I have offered this in the past and have had very few people take advantage of it. Since I maintain the ships roster, just contact me at [mowedge@zoominternet.net](mailto:mowedge@zoominternet.net) to see if you have a former buddy that may be included in the 296 shipmates we have currently on the roster. I can provide the contact information to you for making contact with that person.

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Hey shipmates do not forget that we have a website for the Casa Grande reunion Association. Just go to [www.usscasagrande.com](http://www.usscasagrande.com). You will find pictures of recent reunions, newsletters, roster, deceased shipmates, and other interesting information about the Casa Grande. Thanks to shipmate Bob Curto SF2 65-67, for his initiative in getting the website up and running for the association.

Reflecting back in the Casa Grande reunion history I thought I would provide this photo from the 2006 reunion in Washington, DC. where we met with Donald C. Winter, the Secretary Of The Navy inside the Pentagon. This was our attempt to have another ship named Casa Grande. As you can see we had over 100 people attend this meeting and reunion. At that time we were the largest group from a single ship to ever meet with the SECNAV. Efforts in this endeavor were not successful however I know the Casa Grande Crew was not alone. Most navy reunions groups have sent their requests through the Secretary of the Navy also and generally with the same result.



**Here is some very interesting information about our beloved Casa Grande LSD-13 so sit back and enjoy.**

# USS Casa Grande LSD-13

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USS Casa Grande (LSD 13) was a Casa Grande-class dock landing ship of the United States Navy, named in honor of Casa Grande Ruins National Monument near Coolidge, Arizona.

The ship was originally authorized under the Lend-Lease Act as BAPM-5, the fifth of seven British Mechanized Artillery Transports, to be named HMS Portway (F144). Reclassified a Landing Ship Dock, LSD-13, on 1 July 1942, the contract for LSD-13 was awarded to Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co., Newport News, Virginia, on 10 September 1942. Renamed HMS Spear, LSD-13's keel was laid down, on 11 November 1943. While under construction, LSD-13, Rushmore (LSD-14), and Shadwell (LSD-15) were reassigned back to the United States. The ship was renamed Casa Grande, and, as the first of her class in the U.S. Navy, gave her name to the class.

Casa Grande was launched 11 April 1944, sponsored by Mrs. G. Delapalme; and commissioned 5 June 1944, Lieutenant Commander F. E. Strumm, USNR, in command.

## Service history

### World War II

Sailing from Hampton Roads 19 July 1944, Casa Grande was delayed at Balboa, Panama Canal Zone for repairs en route to Pearl Harbor, where she arrived 21 August. Here she offloaded landing craft brought from the east coast, and loaded men and equipment for the invasion of Yap. However, upon her arrival at Eniwetok on 25 September, she was ordered to Manus Island to prepare for the Leyte operation. Assigned to the Southern Attack Force, she entered Leyte Gulf uneventfully, and took part in the initial assault on 20 October. Her men worked at fever pace under enemy air attack as they launched their landing craft and serviced other small craft engaged in this triumphant return to the Philippines, and on 22 October, she withdrew for Hollandia. During the next month, she made two voyages from New Guinea to Leyte, ferrying reinforcements, and evacuating casualties.

December 1944 found Casa Grande preparing for the second of the massive operations in the Philippines, and on 31 December she sailed in Attack Group "Baker" of Task Force 79 (TF 79) for Lingayen Gulf. First enemy contact came at sunset on 8 January 1945, as a small but determined group of kamikazes

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attacked. One of these broke through to damage the aircraft carrier Kitkun Bay severely, but Casa Grande came through unscathed, and joined in driving away the scattered individual enemy aircraft which pushed the attack onward.

Although sporadic attacks by Japanese aircraft and small ships tried to disrupt the landings, the long months of detailed planning bore fruit as Casa Grande and the others of her group carried out their landing assignments smoothly on 9 January 1945. She continued to operate in support of the invasion, plying between Lingayen, Leyte, and Morotai until 30 January. Casa Grande next cruised among the Solomons to load Marines, landing craft, and tanks for the invasion of Okinawa. She took departure from Ulithi on 26 March, and arrived off Okinawa at dawn of 1 April. Landing equipment and troops under the first of the kamikaze attacks which were to bathe the Okinawa operation in blood, she moved to Kerama Retto on 4 April to operate a small boat repair shop there until 3 June, when she sailed for a minor overhaul at Leyte.

Through July 1945, Casa Grande sailed between ports of the South Pacific and Philippines transporting men and landing craft, and on 23 July she sailed for dry-docking at San Francisco.

Between 12 September 1945, when she returned to Honolulu, and 20 April 1946, when she docked at San Francisco, Casa Grande supported occupation and redeployment operations in the western Pacific. She ferried landing craft and motor torpedo boat squadrons, calling at ports in the South Pacific, China, Japan, Korea, Okinawa, the Philippines, and Alaska. On 14 May 1946, she left San Francisco for Norfolk, Va., where she was decommissioned and laid up in the Atlantic Reserve Fleet, Norfolk Group 23 October 1946.

1950 – 1969

With the outbreak of the Korean War, Casa Grande was recommissioned 1 November 1950 and based at Norfolk. Exercises off the east coast, and supply missions to Newfoundland and Greenland, as well as amphibious training in the Caribbean, formed the pattern of her operations through 1960. She voyaged to the Mediterranean for service in the 6th Fleet on three occasions.

She sailed for the first such deployment 20 April 1953, and on 13 August, was dispatched to the Ionian Islands to aid victims of earthquakes. At Cephalonia she established a beach center for medical supplies and provisions, and sent parties into the mountains to deliver supplies and bury the dead. When Casa Grande

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sailed from Cephalonia a week later, she left behind a hospital corpsman, as well as details of Marines who began rebuilding homes and roads. She returned to Norfolk from this cruise 28 October 1953.

Her next deployment to the Mediterranean took place between 29 July 1959 and 9 February 1960. Casa Grande returned to Little Creek, VA on 10 February 1960. In June 1960 she was assigned duties as one of the recovery vessels to assist in Project Mercury. A subsequent cruise was made to the Caribbean later in the summer to participate in the recovery of a Mercury Atlas rocket nose cone but unfortunately the firing was aborted. She returned to Little Creek, Va for additional upkeep, preparations for overseas deployment and local operations around Little Creek, VA. On 31 October Casa Grande commenced her third deployment to the Mediterranean.

Casa Grande returned to Little Creek, VA from her deployment on 17 May 1961 and commenced a period of leave and upkeep. On 14 July she commenced a four month FRAM II overhaul at the Charleston Naval Shipyard which was completed on 16 November. On 7 December 1961 she received secret orders to deploy to Venezuela with eight helicopters to support Presidents Kennedy's South American visit. The ship returned to Little Creek, VA on 23 December and commenced a holiday leave period. This marked the first time in three years Casa Grande had been in homeport for Christmas.

On 15 January 1962 Casa Grande got underway for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to conduct refresher training and returned to Little Creek, VA on 13 February. She spent the remainder of the month undergoing amphibious training in the local area.. She departed for Hamilton, Bermuda on 19 March to pick up a Martin P5M "Marlin". After loading the seaplane on her flight deck she returned to Norfolk Naval Base. The month of April was spent preparing for overseas deployment. On 14 May Casa Grande departed Little Creek, VA for her fourth Mediterranean deployment. After being delayed on her return by Hurricane Ella, she finally arrived in Little Creek, Va on 19 October. On 21 October she departed homeport to participate in the Cuban Missile Crisis Blockade. She returned to Little Creek, VA on 5 December and commenced a holiday leave and upkeep period.

From January 1963 until she entered a civilian shipyard in Newport News, Va for a routine overhaul, Casa Grande conducted local amphibious operations around Little Creek, VA. She departed for refresher training at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba on 12 June. During the refresher training she proceeded to Port au Prince, Haiti to

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evacuate a helicopter, several small boats and other equipment assigned to the U.S. Military Mission to Haiti. From July to August she completed local refresher training under the control of Amphibious Operations Training Unit. On 20 September 1963 Casa Grande commenced her fifth deployment to the Mediterranean in company with Amphibious Squadron Six.

Casa Grande's return to Little Creek, VA was delayed due to the crisis on the island of Cyprus, finally returning to Little Creek, VA on 20 March 1964. During April she participated in Operation Quick Kick. For the next two months she conducted local operations around Little Creek, Va in preparation for her upcoming deployment. On 20 July she sailed with Amphibious Squadron Six for New York City for a weeks visit to the World's Fair. On 31 August she sailed to Vieques Island, Puerto Rico to onload personnel and equipment and return them to Morehead City, NC. Hurricanes forced her to return to Little Creek, VA, however on 14 September she departed for Morehead City, NC to disembark personnel and equipment. She deployed to the Mediterranean for her sixth deployment on 5 October and participated in Operation Steelpike off the coast of Spain enroute.

Casa Grande returned to Little Creek, VA in March 1965. On 28 April 1965 she deployed to the Dominican Republic and returned to Little Creek, VA on 11 June 1965. From June until December she operated locally off the Virginia Capes with time out for a tender availability at Norfolk Naval Base in July. During participation in MEBLEX 2-65 Casa Grande was called upon to make repairs to the USS Perry (DD 883) which had collided with the USS York County (LST 1175). She commenced a holiday leave period on 17 December which continued until the end of the year.

The year of 1966 opened with Casa Grande preparing for deployment to the Mediterranean. On 25 January got underway for her seventh deployment, however on 29 January she and the the rest of Amphibious Squadron Six were ordered to return to their homeports. She sailed for Morehead City, NC on 4 February to unload all troops and equipment and returned to Little Creek, VA on 6 February. On 7 February she departed for the Mediterranean to take the place of the USS Fort Snelling (LSD 30) which was engaged in the recovery of a lost nuclear weapon off the east coast of Spain. She returned to Little Creek, VA on 2 August and underwent a post deployment leave and upkeep period until 29 August followed by a three weeks overhaul preparation period. On 23 September she sailed for Bethlehem Steel Company, Baltimore, MD for a regular overhaul. On 23 December she returned to Little Creek, VA and spent the rest of the year

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preparing for refresher training.

On 6 January 1967 Casa Grande got underway for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to conduct refresher training and returned to Little Creek, VA on 9 February. From 20 February to 24 February she conducted local amphibious training under the control of Amphibious Operations Training Unit. From 6 March to 10 March she conducted squadron training under the command Commander Amphibious Squadron Six. On 30 March she commenced her eighth deployment to the Mediterranean as a member of Amphibious Squadron Six and returned to Little Creek, VA on 15 September. On 5 October she got underway for Norfolk Naval Base for a two week tender availability and returned to Little Creek, VA on 25 October. She remained in Little Creek, VA until the end of the year except for a two day underway period in December.

January and February 1968 saw Casa Grande participate in Operation Springboard in the Caribbean. In March 1968 she deployed to the Mediterranean for her ninth deployment as a member of Amphibious Squadron Six returning to Little Creek, VA in August 1968.

Casa Grande made her tenth and last Mediterranean deployment in March 1969 and returned to Little Creek, VA in August 1969. It was during this deployment she celebrated the 25th anniversary of her initial commissioning on 5 June. On 15 September she was transferred from Amphibious Squadron Six to the Inactive Ships Maintenance Facility, Portsmouth, VA.

Casa Grande was decommissioned on 6 October 1969, and transferred to the National Defense Reserve Force. The ship was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register, on 11 October 1976, and sold, 6 April 1992, for \$270,000 to Baxter Shipping Inc., Burbank, California.

Casa Grande received three battle stars for World War II service.

## Awards

- China Service Medal (extended)
- American Campaign Medal
- Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal (3)
- World War II Victory Medal
- Navy Occupation Service Medal (with Asia/Europe clasp)
- National Defense Service Medal



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- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Cuba, Dominican Republic)
- Philippines Presidential Unit Citation
- Philippines Liberation Medal (2)

## Commanding Officers

- 1.) LCDR, Strumm, Fred E. (5 June 1944 - 28 June 1946)
- 2.) LT, Kassell, Bernard Maxwell, USN (28 June 1946 - 23 October 1946)  
Decommissioned (23 October 1946 - 1 November 1950)
- 3.) CDR, Nienstadt, Daniel Albert (1 November 1950 - 25 July 1952)
- 4.) CDR, Winkel, Robert Paul (25 July 1952 - 2 August 1954)
- 5.) CDR, Spears Jr., William Oscar (2 August 1954 - September 1955)
- 6.) CDR, Sullivan, John William (September 1955 - November 1956)
- 7.) CDR, Charles, Robert G. (November 1956 - June 1958)
- 8.) CDR, Strow, Albert Rowe (June 1958 - 1959)
- 9.) CDR, Meehan, John Burton (1959 - December 1960)
- 10.) CDR, Kunhardt, Robert Manton (Bob), USN (USNA 1943) (December 1960 - November 1962)
- 11.) LCDR, Dunning, Bruce Baker (November 1962 - 1 July 1964)
- 12.) CDR, Mashaw, Andrew Jackson, USN (1 July 1964 - August 1965)
- 13.) CDR, Austin Jr., William Harry (August 1965 - January 1967)
- 14.) CDR, Carr, Herbert William (January 1967 - March 1968)
- 15.) CDR, Mueller, George Edward, USN (USNA 1951) (March 1968 - September 1969)
- 16.) CDR, Page Jr., Carroll Snow (September 1969 - 6 October 1969)

Well this wraps it up for this year's newsletter. I hope you enjoyed the information contained in the newsletter. Don't forget we have a website. Just go to [www.usscasagrande.com](http://www.usscasagrande.com) and check it out.

If you have never attended a Casa Grande reunion you are missing out on a great time. I am really looking forward to our new association with the Amphibious Ships Reunion group as it will be a perfect fit for our organization.

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## USS CASA GRANDE LSD-13 REUNION ASSOCIATION 2021 DUES FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

RATING \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS SERVED ON THE USS CASA GRANDE 19 \_\_\_\_\_ to 19 \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE OR SIGNIFICANT OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to the Casa Grande Reunion Association

Annual shipmate dues: \$15.00

Annual Associate Member Dues \$5.00

Mail to:

Bob Moody, Treasurer

324 Dutch Road

Harmony, Pa. 16037-8905

Phone: 724-452-7065

Email: [mowedge@zoominternet.net](mailto:mowedge@zoominternet.net)